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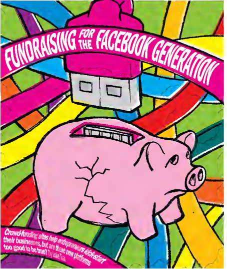

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FACEBOOK GENERATION

Crowd-funding sites help entrepreneurs kick-start their businesses, but are these new platforms too good to be true? By Luke Tsai

NEWS 6

THE PAYOFF

Contra Costa County paid "Jane Doe" $450,000, even though her allegations of rape against a former deputy district attorney were flimsy. The payoff may have also been illegal

By John Geluardi

There has been yet another troubling twist in the Contra Costa County's ongoing saga of political intrigue in the district attorney's office. So far, the story has been full of misdeeds and lascivious details. They include dodgy rape charges against a longtime prosecutor, a violent criminal's questionable release from jail, a botched home invasion robbery, and a secret deal with a prostitute. All of these events and sordid characters are connected in one way or another to last year's campaign for district attorney. Now a mysterious payout of a large sum of taxpayer money has thickened the story's increasingly Byzantine plot. The payout is also raising legal questions because it was withheld from grand jury testimony despite the payment's pertinence to the case before it. According to documents obtained by the *Express*, Contra Costa County paid $450,000 to the former deputy district attorney known as "Jane Doe" in press reports who claimed she was raped by fellow Deputy District Attorney Michael Gressett. *Story inside*

ECO WATCH 6

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Oakland's Post-Car Press advocates for travel by train and bicycle

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

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Stop Dissing OPD

All of the media surrounding Oakland and its police force is routinely negative and I want to take a moment and recognize the great work that the force continues to do, despite their challenging work environment — high crime and a shrinking force.

Despite living in Oakland for more than a decade, last night was the first time I became a crime statistic. I was robbed at gun point last night near the West Oakland BART station, with my purse and computer being stolen (related to the Concord car jacking and kidnapping). Within a few hours two officers, J. Fenstire (8757) and Y. Tatlisu (8691) had stopped the hijacked car and found my things. I was shocked when OPD called to notify me that my things had been found. As soon as I got off the phone, Officer M. Miller (8444) arrived to take my statement and then drove me to identify one of the suspects and to retrieve my belongings. My health is poor right now and Officer Miller was very sensitive to my needs.

I was shocked to learn that Officer Miller was patrolling alone — very dangerous when you are investigating a crime, in my opinion. While District 4 is relatively safe, I do not believe officers should be patrolling alone.

When I arrived in East Oakland at the crime scene, all of the officers were very professional, helping me retrieve my belongings. The crime scene was well contained and calm despite the very late hour, when all of the victims were tired.

I am proud to live in Oakland, and despite last night's events, will continue to be a proud resident of Oakland. We must all work together to make Oakland the best place to live.

I challenge Mayor Quan, the city council, and the residents of Oakland to find a way to support our police department to make Oakland a safe place to live and visit.

Lisa Pfell, Oakland

[illegible]

Eastlake's Loss Is Temescal's Gain

As someone living in the Temescal neighborhood, I would be thrilled to see not only the abandoned Grand get put back in use, but also to get a theater in the neighborhood that would draw folks from miles around. It would be a major win for the neighborhood. I am very sorry for Eastlake's loss but that landlord sounds like a jerk. The New Parkway folks deserve a more reasonable landlord.

Theron O'Connor, Oakland

[illegible]

Old Stereotype, New Title

I do not begrudge Chua's right to make money off her "a-ha" moment, but I do resent the way she has further propagated the stereotypical image of the "pushy" Asian parent. I am truly fortunate to have an academically successful daughter who achieved near perfect SAT scores, and received offers from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. I will take credit for having given her a whole lot of support, but I am certain my parenting skills had little to do with her college acceptances. In truth, I suspect race and gender played major roles.

And yet, I was always perceived as the pushy Asian mother by her teachers, and her counselors, and by other parents as well, Asian and non-Asian alike.

I feel that most people, including Asians, simply refuse to believe that a young Asian woman can be extremely motivated on her own. Chua and her publishers have every right to publicize her book, and they did a very good job, but it came at the expense of all the academically successful Asian students who will have an even harder time shaking the perception that they could not have accomplished much without their tiger mothers pushing them. Chua's book has merely given an old stereotype a new name. Out with the pushy Asian mother, in with the roaring tiger mother. Somehow, I do not feel better.

Cynthia Lam, New York City

Corrections

In our February 2 Local Licks column, we printed the wrong date for the upcoming Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet show. It's at Yoshi's on Feb. 21. ●

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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QUAN GAMBLES ON BATTS

Demands by Oakland's police chief will make it much tougher for the new mayor to fill the city's $40 million budget hole.

By Robert Gammon and Ellen Cushing

Supporters of **Anthony Batts** were elated by his decision late last week to stay on as Oakland's police chief. And Mayor **Jean Quan** told reporters that she was "very happy" and "very relieved" that Batts wasn't leaving. But Quan's decision to ask Batts to remain as the city's top cop promises to make her job much tougher, especially when he has made it clear that his heart isn't completely in Oakland.

Although city council President **Larry Reid** told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Batts promised him that he would fulfill the remainder of his three-year contract, the chief refused to repeat that vow to the newspaper. The *Chronicle* noted that when asked if he was committed to Oakland, Batts responded, "As long as we continue to make progress and keep focusing as a team."

In other words, Batts appears to be saying that he'll only stay under the right conditions. Presumably, that means more money for the **Oakland Police Department**, or at the very least, no more budget cuts. His backers undoubtedly think his position is perfectly understandable, but it's an attitude that could prove problematic for Quan as she grapples with next year's $40 million budget deficit.

Batts applied for the San Jose police chief's job last fall, and then contemplated quitting Oakland last week after San Jose chose someone else. Batts apparently was angered by the Oakland City Council's decision last year to lay off eighty cops. Quan appeared to placate Batts last week, at least temporarily, with her decision to hire back ten of the laid-off cops and make police equipment problems a top city priority. But the mayor is likely going to have a tough time keeping the police chief happy over the long-term.

The big problem for Quan is that she and the **Oakland Police Officers Association** remain at loggerheads over compensation concessions. And it's going to be very difficult for her to balance next year's budget without the police union agreeing to pay at least 9 percent of its pension plan. Other city unions, who agreed in the past two years to several more givebacks than the cops' union did, have said that they won't go along with more concessions unless the cops do their part. The police union is the only union in the city that does not pay at least 9 percent of its pension plan.

In other words, Quan must somehow convince the police union to back off its hard-line stance if she's going to balance the budget and avoid massive layoffs and the destruction of basic city services. But Batts' "I'll-only-stay-if-I-get what I want" attitude complicates her job significantly. The reason is that it deprives the mayor of the leverage needed to get the police union to compromise.

Normally, public agencies use the threat of layoffs to coerce unions into agreeing to givebacks. But the Oakland police union now knows that Quan has effectively surrendered this weapon from her arsenal. Quan may not be able to even threaten layoffs without Batts jumping ship. And even if she's able to make the threat, it won't be credible, because if the police union still refuses to budge, then Batts would surely leave if she laid off more officers.

Quan apparently believed that the departure of Oakland's popular police chief would have been viewed as a severe blow to her nascent administration. But her decision to ask him to stay, coupled with his refusal to commit long-term to the job, appears to be a big win for the police union, and potentially devastating for other city services. Quan seems to have backed herself into a corner, and made her already very tough job a whole lot tougher.

Firm Stays in Gang Case

Alameda County Superior Court Judge **Robert Freedman** said last week that members of a politically connected Oakland law firm could remain as attorneys in a gang injunction case because they don't have a conflict of interest as alleged by City Attorney **John Russo**, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. Russo had argued that **Michael Siegel** and **Jose Luis Fuentes** had a conflict because city Councilwoman **Jane Brunner** is a member of the firm and firm partner **Dan Siegel** is an unpaid adviser to Mayor Quan. But Freedman said that the nonprofit that Michael Siegel and Fuentes created with independent attorneys to represent alleged gang members had established a legal firewall that alleviated any concerns about a possible conflict.

Cap-and-Trade in Doubt

The landmark cap-and-trade system established by the **California Air Resources Board** is illegal because the state failed to conduct an environmental impact report, a San Francisco county superior court judge tentatively ruled last week. The decision by Judge **Ernest Goldsmith** came in response to a lawsuit filed by environmental groups that want the air board to examine alternatives to the cap-and-trade system, the *Chron* reported. The system is designed to fight climate change by allowing renewable energy companies to sell greenhouse gas emissions "credits" to polluters.

Three-Dot Roundup

An all-out melee erupted at **Kitty's** bar in Emeryville last week when up to 180 people spilled into the streets, drawing knives and guns and throwing bottles at police officers. ... **Blakes on Telegraph**, a Berkeley institution for 71 years, closed its doors after defaulting on its lease. ... The **Claremont Resort and Spa** filed for bankruptcy protection, but the venerable Oakland hotel is expected to remain open as it sorts out its financial troubles. ... And Oakland's **Jack London Aquatic Center** may close at the end of February because the nonprofit that runs the center has been unable to find funding to make up for Oakland city budget cuts. ●

Rachel Swan and Alex Vaughn contributed to this report.

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

LEGALIZATION NATION

NEW POT TRADING CARDS UNVEILED

Berkeley Patients Care Collective releases "MK Ultra," with "Purple Kush," "Durban Poison," and seven other medical cannabis cards on the way

By David Downs

In California's competitive marijuana growing industry, popular strains such as "OG Kush" and "Blue Dream" can generate big profits, while inventing a hit new strain is a lifetime goal. This month, the **Berkeley Patients Care Collective** honors a few more of Northern California's weed celebrities with the release of its second series of medical cannabis collector cards.

Following the success of its first set of ten cards in 2010, the collective released the first of ten in its "Series Two" last week, starting with the strain "MK Ultra," available to patients while supplies last. Nine more cards will become available at a rate of one every two weeks, and eventually patients can purchase all ten for $10 at the collective on Telegraph Avenue. Series Two features MK Ultra, Purple Kush, Morning Star, Durban Poison, Pink 19 Ogre, Purple God, Sage & Sour, Glen Moonshine, and Blackberry Kush.

The front of each card showcases a high-resolution photo of the strain's sticky bud, along with an inset photo of the microscopic trichomes on the plant. Owner **David Bowers** said all photos were taken at the collective from what came in the door, representing some of the most popular, most available strains in the Bay Area.

On the back of the card, the collective traces the strain's history, describes its effect, and the ailments it has been known to treat. For example, MK Ultra is "named after a covert CIA human research program begun in the 1950s. This strain is a cross between the infamous government grown G-13 and OG Kush.

"Flavor: A spicy and pungent lemon pepper up close, but smells like a skunk from far away. Very strong lung expansion. Effect: One of the strongest and heaviest varieties available. Starts out with a powerful euphoria followed by long lasting physical relief. Medicinal Recommendations: Chronic Pain, Insomnia, Muscle Spasms, Nausea, Appetite, MS, Anxiety, PTSD, Glaucoma, Migraines, Gastrointestinal Issues, AIDS, Cancer, Epilepsy, Alcoholism, Arthritis, Anorexia."

Bowers said the first set of cards reaffirmed the impact of specific strains on different ailments. "It really made people understand and inspired to know more about strains that are good for them," he said.

The collective's experienced staff determines the type of strain when growers come into the collective with a fresh crop. A good wholesale buyer can identify a strain from across the room, Bowers said, but morphology, smell, and texture can also help. Buyers also use data from overseas seed banks, such as **Green House** in Amsterdam.

However, strains change over time and location, and growers constantly alter them to gain notoriety, leading to a new problem — the names of the strains. The counter-culture roots of pot growing in California must now contend with the new mainstream legitimacy of the plant.

On Sunday, January 30, fellow Berkeley dispensary operator **Debby Goldsberry** of **Berkeley Patients Group** publicly called for a clean up of medical pot's image by ending product names like "Cat Piss" and "Train Wreck." When "Gods Pussy" won the *High Times* San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup last fall, one prominent doctor suggested penalizing potentially award-winning strains for crass nomenclature.

"There are some really bad names out there," Bowers said. "It comes from a culture where these guys just come up with names off the top of their heads. Growers want to create a strain that people remember. Unfortunately people can be really turned off to medication that could be really good for them. They say, 'Cat Piss, I'd never buy that.' But it's one of the best mildews out there."

Bowers said growers have toned down names over time, and he believes names will settle down even further. But others remain quasi-historic genetic landmarks. For example, "Durban Poison" came from South Africa in the Seventies and has been an underground Bay Area staple ever since. "It's clean, energetic focus doesn't have a big physical side effect, so it's incredibly popular with certain patients. It changes their life," Bowers noted. "It's rare enough that the people that have it are kind of lucky to have it and hold onto it."

Bowers said the Berkeley Patients Care Collective makes sure to highlight the educational aspects of its collector cards, given their troubled history. Back in 1998, then California Attorney General **Dan Lungren** ordered **In Line Trading Cards** of San Francisco to stop a "Classic Hemp" series of trading cards, such as "Acapulco Gold," that were on sale in convenience stores. In related news, Amsterdam officials recently released scratch-and-sniff cannabis cards as part of a law enforcement campaign.

Seeds & Stems

Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** said he won't help the city council draft a pot farm permit plan, alluding to its possible illegality. The pot farm proposal went back to the Public Safety Committee this week as unregulated pot production continues to threaten public health and safety. Farm proponents say Oakland is being singled out. Mendocino County permits large pot grows, as do the states of Colorado and Arizona. ... And while President **Barack Obama** said changing drug policy is a legitimate topic for debate, news surfaced last week that a New Mexico border patrol agent is suing his employers, claiming they he was fired for discussing that topic. The **American Civil Liberties Union** is representing **Bryan Gonzalez**, who was investigated and allegedly fired after he had a private chat with another border patrol agent wherein he questioned the drug war. The ACLU said the border patrol violated Gonzalez's First Amendment rights. "As far as I know this the first of its kind," said **Micah McCoy** of ACLU New Mexico. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Justin Eichenlaub (center) and Kelly Gregory (behind right).

ECO WATCH

LEAVING THE CAR AT HOME

Oakland's Post-Car Press advocates for travel by train and bicycle.

By Nate Seltenrich

Justin **Eichenlaub** and **Kelly Gregory** may or may not have fallen in love while bicycling. There's some debate as to whether it happened on a train ride *or* during a bike ride. But it's a safe bet that the couple, who met as friends via a Craigslist post Eichenlaub placed three years ago regarding a four-day trip to Monterey, can trace their roots directly to one of the above. They've since turned their passion for car-free travel via bicycle, public transit, and foot into a business aimed at un-cluttering our cities, easing our reliance on fossil fuels, and increasing our enjoyment of weekend jaunts.

The core of the enterprise is **Post-Car Press,** an Oakland-based publishing entity (the couple, both in their late-twenties, share an apartment near Lake Merritt) that produces practical guidebooks geared toward what Eichenlaub and Gregory call "post-car adventuring." The idea is to share routes, advice, and practical tips on completing short trips — usually within no more than a few hours of home — without the aid of a personal vehicle. ***Post-Car Adventuring: San Francisco Bay Area,*** the duo's first book, features detailed directions for eight outdoor recreation destinations, arranged in increasing level of difficulty or distance travelled: West Marin, Samuel Taylor State Park, Mt. Diablo, Napa and Sonoma, Tahoe, Big Sur, Yosemite, and Tassajara Hot Springs in the Big Sur backcountry. Each index-card-size, pull-out page aids readers in getting from their home anywhere in the Bay Area to the front door, so to speak, of wherever they're headed — and that means using trains, buses, and bikes with equal abandon.

"There's really not any other book or guidebook that incorporates transit to that degree," said Gregory. "There's a lot of cool bike-touring books, but you start from point A, which is always outside of the city. So it assumes you drove to Point A, and then go on the trip." The goal of the *Post-Car Adventuring* series is to bridge that gap between rural bicycle routes and urban bus maps, proving that most middle-distance adventures don't require cars at all — and can often be much more rewarding without them.

A sentence in the 28-page book's introductory paragraph presents Eichenlaub and Gregory's philosophy succinctly: "Post-Car Adventuring is about gaining things rather than giving them up." They cite inspiration in environmental philosopher **Kate Soper**'s term "hedonistic environmentalism" — a frame of mind, they write, where "human happiness and comfort are key ingredients of environmental ethics and action."

But what the book never addresses is the authors' attitude toward cars — a position, one would imagine, that's implicit in their enterprise's very name. This was partly by choice. The book's first edition, 200 copies of which were printed and sold in 2009, contained some anti-car language that they decided to remove for the revision. "Part of me wants to put that back in there," Eichenlaub said. Ultimately, however, he believes the book is better off without it.

"Post-Car is a chance to think beyond the normal anti-car propaganda stuff," he said. Part of the reason for this is that the guidebooks' primary audience, he feels, is city dwellers who do own cars and may be predisposed to do without, but are wary to give them up precisely because they believe regional trips like these are unattainable, or impractical without a vehicle. The underlying motivation for Eichenlaub and Gregory is convincing people like this that they don't need to hold on to their cars for weekend trips to Yosemite or Napa, which in turn could help reduce the number of vehicles cluttering urban centers. Environmentalism, interestingly, takes a backseat.

"One of our main goals is reducing the number of cars that are in the city," Eichenlaub explained. "At the end of the day, the carbon emission savings are useful, but they're not as useful to us as the social costs and personal costs of an urban environment." Fewer cars make the city a more livable place, reduce traffic and accidents, and open up the streets to pedestrians and bicyclists, he said.

It's a lofty vision, and one that must overcome serious obstacles. For starters, most people are wary of using transit when they can otherwise drive because of the apparent increase in travel time. Eichenlaub stresses that this perceived difference is not always accurate — and that in some cases, biking and transit can actually be quicker — but it's nonetheless a significant mental hurdle. Likewise, for car owners who are already paying for insurance, registration, and repairs, the amount of gas money required for a hundred-mile drive is minuscule compared to a train ticket. Other considerations include participants' physical fitness, bicycle gear, and comfort level with road riding — though again, Eichenlaub and Gregory insist they're all easily overcome, especially when the benefits of going car-free are factored in.

"A lot of our friends own cars, but they ask us about doing this and they start doing it on their own, too, and they leave the car at home even though it's cheaper," Eichenlaub said. "Especially for a trip like Yosemite. If you're just going to the central village there, why would you want to drive? Especially in the winter. ... I think there's an appeal to it."

Gregory agrees: "I'm just so obsessed with Amtrak. It's the nicest thing ever. I'm able to write things, and I'm able to think about things. I really love sitting on Amtrak. ... We've really gained a strong appreciation of different landscapes by biking and also by taking the train."

Production of the second-edition *Post-Car Adventuring: San Francisco Bay Area* book was funded largely through a **Kickstarter** campaign the duo launched last summer from Green River, Utah, where Gregory, an architect, was working at the time. They raised $6,500 to cover the cost of printing 1,500 copies, an endeavor bolstered by the fund-raising platform's directors, who included Post-Car Press in a mass e-mail highlighting their favorite campaigns. Their account quickly swelled past $2,000 from family and friends to $6,500, aided by a $650 pledge from one donor in New York who had never met or even spoken with them. That convinced Eichenlaub and Gregory that they were on to something — something that touched a nerve with regular people across the country. The new book, sold through Oakland's **AK Press,** can be found in small shops throughout the East Bay, including **Walden Pond Books** in Oakland, all three **Pegasus Books** locations, and **Moe's Books** in Berkeley — not to mention on **Amazon.com**.

Future guidebooks covering Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City, and Green River, Utah, are in early planning stages, with assistance from friends and fellow post-car adventurers across the country. The company will even be able to pay contributors. Thanks to the successful Kickstarter campaign, Post-Car Press is now a self-sustaining business. "We have the capital to invest in a new book, get it printed, and get the money back from that," Gregory said proudly.

Beyond books, the two hope to someday expand their **Post-Car Industries** umbrella to include a car- and plane-free travel agency as well as a bike-centric design service for car-free garages. It all traces back to that central credo: "gaining things rather than giving them up." While most anti-car and environmentalist rhetoric — especially in the arena of carbon emissions and global warming — focuses on the latter, Eichenlaub and Gregory have adopted a more holistic urban planning approach that is rife with potential. "We're really interested in that bigger picture," Eichenlaub said, "and what it actually means toward quality of human life." ●

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One of the project's opponents, Signey Melous, at the site of the proposed development. Judith Scherr

WHOLE FOODS OR MAJOR HEADACHE?

A proposed development on UC Berkeley land in Albany — including a Whole Foods — raises the ire of community members.

By Judith Scherr

A proposed development that would include a **Whole Foods** mega-store, senior housing, and shops on land owned by **UC Berkeley** in Albany could be a nirvana for the cash-strapped city and for foodies craving organic mango tea or vegan goji berry snacks. But opponents fighting the project just south of Marin and San Pablo avenues call it "myopic." They say the new businesses would squeeze out established ones and turn open space into concrete — not to mention that the city would effectively roll out a welcome mat for a company that shuns organized labor.

The project, which is likely to go before the planning and zoning commission later this month, would be built on a five-acre parcel just west of San Pablo Avenue, between Codornices and Village creeks. As it is currently conceived, the site would include a 55,000-square-foot Whole Foods Market on the northern part of the parcel. One-story retail shops are planned along San Pablo Avenue on the southern part and behind the shops, there would be a five-story complex with retail on the ground floor and a mix of senior-citizen apartments and assisted living units above. The project was formally introduced in 2008, although the university has planned to develop the site for more than a dozen years.

Realtor and defeated city council candidate **Francesco Papalia** said moving forward with the development is a "no-brainer." He pointed out that while neighboring Berkeley is often at odds with the university for occupying former retail sites and taking property off the tax rolls, the opposite would occur in Albany, as the vacant site currently contributes neither property nor sales taxes to the city economy.

Papalia says the project will be the catalyst that transforms the area, with new retail springing up on the east side of San Pablo Avenue. "There will be a there, there," he said. "All [Albany] real estate values will go up."

And because Whole Foods is a high-end grocer that attracts a wealthier clientele, Papalia believes it will be a good addition to the city. "High income people will come here to spend their money," he said, arguing that if the store isn't located in Albany, Whole Foods would find a site nearby in El Cerrito, which would exacerbate the trend of dollars fleeing the city.

Kevin Hufferd, director of property development at UC Berkeley, said the project would also help integrate the isolated student community west of San Pablo — **University Village** has almost 1,000 units of family housing — with the bulk of Albany residents to the east and north, bringing them to shop and to use the pedestrian/bike trails planned alongside both creeks. "The public would be invited — encouraged — to enjoy the trails," Hufferd said, adding that the university may use some of the revenue from the project to subsidize University Village housing, most of which is just slightly below market rate.

But retired teacher **Jackie Hermes-Fletcher** bristles when she pictures massive concrete buildings claiming the grassy expanse she calls **Albany Meadows**. She and her allies want the land turned into a park or urban farm. If retail had to exist on the site, Hermes-Fletcher said she'd prefer something like a small cooperative store. Moreover, she says the increased traffic would not only worsen air quality, but create a danger to children at **Ocean View Elementary School** on Jackson Street, which drivers would use to get to the site after exiting the freeway at Buchanan Street. She's also concerned about traffic polluting the city's only community garden, adjacent to the project site.

To boot, Albany has other parcels available for affordable senior housing, said Hermes-Fletcher. The housing was originally planned as affordable to low- and very low-income seniors, but Hufferd said that plan was scrapped because it's not feasible to mix affordable and market-rate housing with assisted living services. "Why would we want senior housing if many seniors cannot afford to live there?" Hermes-Fletcher asked. Another reason Hermes-Fletcher says she dislikes the project is because Whole Foods opposes labor unions at its stores.

Albany's business community isn't lining up behind the project, either. "We can't take care of the businesses we have here," said **Solano Avenue Association** Executive Director **Allen Cain**, calling the city "irresponsible" and "myopic" for considering it. He pointed to the **Safeway** on Solano Avenue that has been trying to remodel for five years. "The city won't let Safeway upgrade, but is willing to bring in competition," Cain said, adding that the small retail planned for the area will hurt existing businesses on the avenue, where there's already a high vacancy rate. The city has no cap on the kinds of businesses it brings in, so there could be more of the same — nail businesses, massage parlors, and tattoo parlors, he said, adding, "The landlords will rent to anyone." Adding to local grocery store competition, new Safeway stores are in the works for El Cerrito and Emeryville.

But Papalia argues that competing retail won't hurt existing businesses. "Peet's and Starbucks are both on Solano," he said. "Who is going out of business? Neither."

The City of Berkeley's economic development project coordinator **Dave Fogarty** said the project probably wouldn't hurt less-pricey grocers such as **Berkeley Bowl** and Safeway. But he said a new Whole Foods — there's already one in southeast Berkeley — is more likely to hurt other high-end grocers, particularly **Andronico's**. One of Berkeley's four Andronico's markets is on *Solano Avenue*, about ten minutes from the new Whole Foods site. "Andronico's is rumored not to be doing well," Fogarty said. "I suspect [Whole Foods] will hurt Andronico's, but I have not studied it."

A separate but related issue for opponents of the Whole Foods project involves the **Gill Tract**, a ten- (some say fourteen-) acre parcel at Marin and San Pablo avenues, north of the proposed project. Portions of the Gill Tract, which is also owned by UC Berkeley, is now used for agricultural experiments by the university's School of Natural Resources. In the past, the university had proposed relocating playing fields, a community center, and a child-care center from University Village to the Gill Tract.

Maru Duncan, who is among the Albany residents advocating for an urban farm at the Gill Tract, said the university should have spelled out its intentions for that site as part of the planning process for the Whole Foods/housing project. But the university declined to consider the Gill Tract as part of the project, leaving the public in the dark regarding its future uses. Duncan points to a 2003 **Albany Unified School District** resolution urging the university to "Preserve the agricultural use of the Gill Tract and work with interested organizations to initiate [a] visionary and viable working farm/ecopark open to Albany students and the public…"

When the zoning commission looks at the project later this month, it will consider allowing a five-story building where the current height limit is about three stories, and expanding commercial zoning to permit retail use on the entire site. The commission will make recommendations to the city council on these questions and eventually on whether it should approve the final environmental impact report, which includes remediation for problems created by the project, such as increased traffic. The university must also win approval of the building design before it brings in the backhoes. The project could be built in phases, according to **Jeff Bonds**, Albany's planning and building manager. The university will still own the property, but could eventually sell all or part of it. City officials can't talk publicly about the project until it comes to them in public meetings.

In the meantime, project opponents say they will lobby public officials to reject the project or approve a smaller one. "I hope the city council will step up to the plate and lead the city, and not buy into this money thing," Duncan said. ●

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THE PAYOFF

Contra Costa County paid "Jane Doe" $450,000 even though her allegations of rape against former Deputy District Attorney Michael Gressett were flimsy. The payoff may have also been illegal.

By John Geluardi

There has been yet another troubling twist in the Contra Costa County's ongoing saga of political intrigue in the district attorney's office.

So far the story has been full of misdeeds and lascivious details. They include dodgy rape charges against a longtime prosecutor, an anal sex club in the DA's office, a violent criminal's questionable release from jail, a botched home invasion robbery, and a secret deal with a prostitute. All of these events and sordid characters are connected in one way or another to last year's campaign for district attorney.

Now a mysterious payout of a large sum of taxpayer money has thickened the story's increasingly Byzantine plot. The payout is also raising legal questions because it was withheld from grand jury testimony despite the payment's pertinence to the case before it.

According to documents obtained by the *Express*, Contra Costa County paid $450,000 to the former deputy district attorney, known as "Jane Doe" in press reports, who claimed she was violently raped by fellow Deputy District Attorney **Michael Gressett** during a lunch break in May of 2008.

The October 2009 payout is troubling because Jane Doe's rape allegations appear to be flimsy and suspicious. For example, Jane Doe claimed the extreme violence of the alleged sexual attack left her battered, bruised, and bleeding from the anus. But fifteen minutes after the alleged attack, she went shopping with a co-worker who described her as composed and that he "noticed nothing wrong with her," according to court documents.

Furthermore, she never reported the assault to police or sought medical attention. A medical exam performed weeks afterward showed no physical injuries consistent with Jane Doe's various accounts of the rape, which changed each time she told it to investigators.

In addition, Jane Doe sent friendly text messages to Gressett for days after the alleged rape. One text message contained a pornographic picture of a woman being "teabagged."

Instead of immediately reporting the crime, Jane Doe hired **Tom McKenna**, a private attorney known for handling drunk-driving cases. McKenna's then law partner was well connected to **Dan O'Malley**, who is the son of former District Attorney **Bill O'Malley** and was, at the time, a candidate for district attorney. McKenna reported the alleged assault to the DA's office and negotiated some kind of arrangement for Jane Doe, who at the time was on a temporary contract with the office and was actively seeking permanent employment as a county prosecutor.

For his part, Gressett admitted to having kinky sex with Jane Doe at his Martinez condominium, although he said it was consensual. Gressett, who was 51 at the time of the assault, had never been previously accused of any kind of sexual misconduct or reported for making inappropriate comments.

Jane Doe's shaky allegations make her high-dollar settlement odd — particularly at a time when the county has been experiencing dire budget deficits and revenue shortfalls.

For unknown reasons, the county counsel's office expedited the payout and then kept it secret. According to records, the county counsel's office recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the large settlement agreement, which the board did unanimously on October 6, 2009. But the counsel's office was unable to immediately produce any records that county officials investigated Jane Doe's claims — there were apparently no depositions, no interviews of her co-workers or supervisors, no review of court documents, and no contact with Gressett or his attorneys.

It appears that former County Counsel **Silvano Marchesi** may have recommended the $450,000 payment based on a two-paragraph complaint Jane Doe filed with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Jane Doe claimed in the complaint that she reported the assault to former District Attorney **Bob Kochly**, and he took no action for months while Jane Doe had to continue working in the same office as her alleged attacker. It also claimed that she was denied permanent employment as retaliation because she reported the alleged rape.

Current County Counsel **Sharon Anderson** did not return calls seeking comment for this story, although her office provided copies of the complaint, settlement agreement, and settlement check.

New legal questions are being raised because the settlement agreement was signed on October 13, 2009, at the same time a grand jury was empanelled to consider Jane Doe's rape allegations. The county had a legal obligation to disclose the settlement to the grand jury because it would have weighed heavily on the credibility of her testimony.

The **California Attorney General's Office**, which is prosecuting the case against Gressett, had no knowledge of the settlement until late last month, according to Deputy Attorney General **Peter Flores**.

Gressett was fired shortly after he was arrested in October 2008, five months after the alleged assault. He has since challenged the firing as wrongful through arbitration and is currently waiting to find out if he will get his job back along with lost pay and benefits.

There has been a great deal of speculation among county employees as to whether Jane Doe will show up to testify against Gressett. She was scheduled on two separate occasions to testify at Gressett's arbitration hearing in August, but failed to show up for either one. She has not yet faced tough questioning about her allegations and their varying forms, and many suspect that since she has already received a huge settlement (some county employees now call her Jane "Dough") and moved to Florida, there is no reason for her to return and testify.

Meanwhile, longtime prosecutor **Mark Peterson** was elected in November as the county's new district attorney. Peterson's win unseated the power structure that ran the office for decades, and many are hopeful that he'll bring to an end the palace intrigues, scandalous behavior, and arrogance that had apparently become an ingrained part of the office culture. ●

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Heather Sittig and Kristen Policy used Kickstarter to raise more than $15,000 to open their wine bar Toast.

Stephen Lansman

Fund-Raising for the Facebook Generation

Crowd-funding sites help entrepreneurs kick-start their businesses, but are these new platforms too good to be true?

By Luke Tsai

When **Heather Sittig** and **Kristen Policy** decided to open a new wine bar in Rockridge, they thought about how, in the old days, out on the frontier, whenever someone wanted to build something useful — say, a barn — the whole community would gather to raise it.

They started thinking. What if they could use that same approach to raise the money they needed to build out their kitchen and get their wine bar **Toast** off the ground? What if everyone they knew, or maybe everyone in the surrounding neighborhood, just chipped in a few dollars? After all, it's no secret that coming up with enough start-up capital is one of the biggest obstacles for any new business.

"We talked to the banks about small-business loans and that sort of thing," Sittig explained. "Basically the lending environment right now is terrible — and for restaurants, basically it's a non-starter. They won't lend on a start-up restaurant period."

It was around this time that Sittig and her business partner learned about **Kickstarter.com**, probably the most well known among a growing number of "crowd-funding" web sites that provide a platform for small businesses and individuals to raise money for various projects. Combining the power of social networking with a do-it-yourself approach, Kickstarter and other similar sites have become enormously popular and powerful tools for alternative fund-raising. Rather than getting traditional investors to buy shares of stock in a company, crowd-funding sites allow individuals to make a more humble contribution of five or ten or maybe a few hundred dollars.

After signing up with Kickstarter, Sittig and Policy uploaded a video in which they talked about their dream of opening up a wine bar. To encourage individuals to pledge money at various levels, they offered perks that ranged from T-shirts to discounted wine vouchers to a "Founder's" title and priority seating for the life of the restaurant. In accordance with the rules of the site, they set a deadline by which they needed to reach their goal of $15,000. Then they sent out e-mails to their entire social network, letting everyone know about the fund-raising project.

In short, their campaign was a success. By the time their Kickstarter deadline rolled around, about two months later, Sittig and Policy had slightly exceeded the $15,000 target — in less than a quarter of the time it took for them to raise the same amount through a similar effort conducted on their own web site. Before Toast has even opened, they've already sold more than 2,000 glasses of wine and, Sittig said, they now essentially have a built-in customer base. All that's left to do is get that barn raised.

Toast's story is one that is increasingly common, both in the Bay Area and beyond, as crowd-funding platforms like Kickstarter become more popular. **Kevin Lawton**, the San Francisco-based co-author of ***The Crowdfunding Revolution***, estimates that there are now as many as two hundred individual crowd-funding sites, many of them focused on highly specific niche markets. There are, for example, multiple crowd-funding sites for aspiring fashion designers. There are also crowd-funding sites for freelance journalists who want to report a research-intensive story but can't find a publication that will pay a decent fee for them to do so. Kickstarter and San Francisco-based **IndieGoGo**, another of the more popular sites, are multipurpose but tend to attract creative types — indie filmmakers, musicians, inventors, bakers.

But while aspiring entrepreneurs see these sites as a source of free money, or at the very least a way to obtain a kind of "no-interest loan" (as Sittig described it), crowd-funding — like most aspects of starting a business — isn't without its risks. For starters, there are fairly significant fees to be paid once a project is successfully funded — typically between 5 and 10 percent of the amount raised once applicable credit card fees have been factored in. Because Kickstarter and many of the other sites use an "all-or-nothing" approach, it's also possible to put in several weeks of work and raise thousands of dollars only to lose everything if you fall short of your goal. And even if you were to treat the crowd-funded cash as a sort of informal "loan," since you've spent the start-up capital to get your restaurant or cafe up and running, you're left to pay the debt back, one free glass of wine at a time, during that precarious first year of business when the margin for error is razor-thin.

And then there's the question of whether crowd-funding, as it's currently practiced, is legally sustainable. So far sites like Kickstarter have dodged the ire of the Securities and Exchange Commission by prohibiting those who donate from profiting on the transaction by, say, receiving shares of stock. That would be in clear violation of the SEC's ban on "general solicitation," which forbids the use of mass media, including the Internet, to advertise securities offerings. Nevertheless, in this burgeoning arena that's pushing the boundaries of what existing regulations could have ever foreseen, there's no shortage of legal issues — for the crowd-funding platforms themselves, as well as for their users.

There is, for example, no way to reliably ensure that those collecting donations are paying the appropriate taxes on them. There's also no clear mechanism on these sites for preventing fraud. Lawton says that while there haven't yet been reports of people taking donations and

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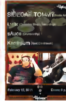

disappearing, the potential for that certainly exists, especially because there are dozens of independent crowd-funding sites with widely divergent levels of project-vetting and self-policing — all of them deficient, in his view. In fact, Lawton says, "You've got to imagine that it's only time before the regulators step in and squash a bunch of these guys. And they don't need a particularly great reason."

Lawton, to be fair, isn't an entirely disinterested observer — the self-described serial entrepreneur has ambitions to start a new online funding platform of his own. He's even spearheading a movement to petition for an SEC exemption that would allow for crowd-funding with securities. What Lawton fears is that the existing sites are flying under the radar simply because the trend is so new, and that if one or more of them gets shut down by the SEC, as he predicts will happen in 2011, it'll muddy the waters for everyone.

The term "crowd-funding" was coined in 2006 by **Michael Sullivan** of the now-defunct **FundAVlog.com**, a site that tried to apply the model as a way to pay creators of online video content, and it's only during the past two years that the idea (and buzz word) has really taken off. But the truth of the matter is that crowd funding, at its core, isn't a particularly new thing.

In a way, any kind of charity has always been a form of crowd-funding, Lawton says. He cites the fund-raising efforts, on both sides of the Atlantic, to pay for the Statue of Liberty as an early example. In France, there was a kind of charity auction that helped fund the building of the statue. And in the United States, **Joseph Pulitzer** used his newspaper as a pulpit to encourage readers to send in small amounts of money to pay for the pedestal and for the shipping.

"If you really translated that to using a web site, you would have crowd-funding. That's Kickstarter for the Statue of Liberty," Lawton said.

In that sense, the only real change is that what used to occur offline — people pledging money, sending in checks, and so forth — is now taking place on the Internet. Nevertheless, and in spite of his reservations about some of the current practices of the crowd funding industry, Lawton believes the phenomenon marks "nothing short of a monumental shift, not just in our culture but in our economics."

Why the bold statement? The key lies in the power of social media technologies and the way those technologies have indelibly altered the way people interact with one another — and, now, with the way they do business, too. Kickstarter, IndieGoGo, and most of the other crowd-funding sites are all optimized to work with **Facebook** and **Twitter** so that if you decide to fund a certain project, then with just one click of the mouse, all your Facebook friends and Twitter followers will see that you did so — and can jump onboard themselves, if they so choose. In that way, a fund-raising campaign can reach a far wider audience much more quickly than was ever possible before, spreading outward from the aspiring entrepreneur's circle of friends and acquaintances toward strangers who are two or three degrees removed but might still be inspired to give. All of the actual transactions are smoothly integrated into the sites, too, making the tried-and-true act of writing a check and putting it in the mail seem impossibly old fashioned.

Danae Ringelmann, a Haas School of Business alum who co-founded IndieGoGo in 2008, explained: "Everybody wants to wake up in the morning and do good. The reason that people don't is because they're really busy, or they have kids, or they've got a nine-to-five job and they're running around." So if the process can be streamlined, so that giving money to support a worthy project — and getting the word out about it too — is just a matter of a few clicks, then people are much more likely to act on their impulse to help.

To start an IndieGoGo campaign, all you need is a pitch, a specific funding goal, and an image (or, better yet, a video) that succinctly sells potential contributors on your idea. At that point, getting the project up on the site only takes a matter of minutes. According to Ringelmann, the company performs perfunctory background checks, but for the most part anyone who wants to start a campaign, whatever its nature, can do so — the idea being that the market will dictate which ones are worthy of support. (Kickstarter has a more involved application process that seems geared toward weeding out projects that don't fit a certain mold.)

Most project owners also set specific perks that donors can earn for contributions at various levels — and those perks can be a hodgepodge of tangible merchandise (a T-shirt) and

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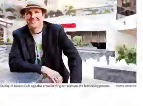
Cott Dunlap of Awaken Cafe says that crowd-funding democratizes the fund-raising process. Stephen Loewinsohn

Stephen Loewinsohn

Even though Kickstarter helped J. Moses Ceaser raise about $200,000 to open The New *Parkway* theater, he remains cautious about recommending the approach to others.

some conference of "VIP" status (the right to name a product, for example). The various crowd-funding sites differ slightly in their payment mechanisms (IndieGoGo allows for credit card, check, or PayPal transactions; Kickstarter uses Amazon Payments exclusively). But, generally speaking, the sites place no limit on the amount of money that can be raised — so it's fine if you ask for $10,000 and end up getting $100,000. And almost all of the sites use an "all-or-nothing" model under which no funds are authorized unless a project reaches its full fund-raising target. The site then takes a cut of the total sum at the very end. IndieGoGo does allow partially funded projects, but charges a higher fee in those cases (9 percent versus 4 percent for projects that meet their goal).

Cortt Dunlap, the owner of Oakland's **Awaken Cafe**, first learned about crowd-funding on Facebook, where a few of his friends posted links to their projects. At the time, Dunlap was starting the process of building out a new space for his cafe, and he saw potential to use one of these sites as a way to mobilize supporters of the cafe — the sorts of folks who'd e-mail him asking when Awaken would reopen and whether there was anything they could do to help. He ended up using IndieGoGo to raise more than $1,500, which covered the cost of the security deposit on the new space, though the sum was largely symbolic as it amounted to only a tiny fraction of the total amount needed to open the cafe. That said, Dunlap felt it was a nice way to give agency to folks who wanted to make some small show of support to his business — "to activate this group of people who are fans and supporters of the cafe, but didn't have the resources to buy a $500 gift card or become an equity partner."

For Dunlap, the real innovation of crowd-funding is the way it democratizes the fund-raising process, giving consumers a tangible way to "vote" for the kinds of businesses they want to support — small, independent, socially conscious businesses, for instance. "If you want to see businesses like ours in your community and not multinational 'big-box kinds of things,'" he said. "There is a way that the community has to come together and say 'we want to see this here.'"

In that way, the crowd-funding phenomenon taps into another byproduct, or symptom, of the Facebook Age: the intense desire people have for personal connections — with friends, with celebrities, and now with those they do business with — however fleeting and insubstantial those connections might be.

Jennifer Kaplan, an expert on marketing and social media, and the person who first told the owners of Toast about Kickstarter, put it this way: "My guess is because we've become so disconnected — because we all sit in front of our computers in our homes and we don't have to see people nearly as much as we used to — that virtual connections, virtual communities are very, very strong, and people take them very seriously and are very engaged in them. And these crowd-funding movements and activities tap into that need for people to connect."

In some instances, people might choose to fund a project because they want to receive a certain product — a bag of coffee beans or a copy of a CD. The most famous example is the design studio that raised more than $940,000 — probably a crowd-funding record — from people who wanted to be among the first to get their hands on the **TikTok**, a kit that turns an **iPod Nano** into a sleek wristwatch. But in many cases, it's the power of the project owner's narrative that pushes folks to get out their credit cards. It's whether you can get potential donors to feel passionate about your passion, it's about making them want to make your dream come true.

One of the early online crowd-funding pioneers, and the one that has perhaps used the power of storytelling to best effect, is the nonprofit **DonorsChoose**, which provides a vehicle for public schoolteachers to ask for donations to pay for needed classroom supplies (everything from textbooks to laptops) or to fund special projects (a field trip or a guest speaker, for instance). Of course, the story each teacher tells is key in terms of establishing the worthiness of his or her specific request, and the only tangible "perk" a donor might receive is a handwritten "thank you" note from the students and maybe some photos that show the money was put to good use. According to the organization's internal statistics, more than $26 million were raised on the site in 2010 alone.

For teachers at cash-strapped schools facing budget cuts and the like, the website has proven to be an invaluable resource, as it has been for

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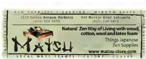

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Danae Ringelmann of IndieGoGo says that people worried about crowd-funding fraud are making false assumptions about human behavior

teachers at Oakland's **Lighthouse Charter School**, which has even set aside meeting times to allow the staff to work on DonorsChoose proposals along with other grants. Dawn Fregosi, a high school science teacher at Lighthouse, says she's not sure she would be teaching anymore if it weren't for DonorsChoose — items she's received for her biology classroom include eight laptops and the past two years' supply of dissection creatures (which included fetal pigs and baby dogfish sharks) along with more mundane things like markers and pencils. She's in the process of trying to use the site to get lab tables for the classroom.

Sara Ellberg, who teaches first grade at Lighthouse, explained, "Obviously the 'powers that be' in our school want our kids to have things like field trips and books, but simply can't help with these things considering the economy and state budget cuts."

This past fall, Ellberg put in a request for a large set of listening centers and books on CD. Almost the entire amount was provided by one "mustached stranger" through a promotion the site sponsors each fall in which men grow mustaches and ask friends and family members to "sponsor" them by donating money to classrooms in need.

It's worth noting, also, that the mechanics of these crowd funding sites are set up in such a way so as to generate a certain kind of participatory, deadline-driven excitement. Once you put money in for a project, you're rooting for the thing to get funded — you have a stake. In that sense, it's a little bit like betting at a craps table or, perhaps more aptly, using the ever-popular deal-of-the-day site **Groupon**, where there's not only a fixed time limit for each deal, there's also a minimum number of people who need to buy it in order for it to be valid. On sites like Kickstarter, as on Groupon, this creates a kind of frenzied ticking of the clock, both for the funders and the fundee. As Awaken Cafe's Dunlap explains, "There's a point where it's like, oh my God, are they going to make it?" and even people who made just a small contribution toward the campaign start hitting refresh on their web browsers every hour or so.

When **J. Moses Ceaser** started his campaign on Kickstarter to raise up $50,000 toward the reopening of Oakland's **Parkway Theater**, he tried to keep his expectations in check — especially when the project remained some $40,000 shy of that goal with only a few days left.

Ceaser says he knew that the tendency is for projects to get most of their funding at the very end, so he sent out a flurry of e-mails to try to make one last push. But even as the amount pledged inched past $20,000, he still felt pretty skeptical.

"And I really don't know what happened that last day, but things exploded," Ceaser said. The campaign to bring back the picture-pub-pizza joint raised an astonishing $27,000 on its last day — all in the last twelve or fourteen hours, really. Even after they hit the $50,000 target, the pledges kept coming in.

"And I get an e-mail for each one, so you can imagine it was just like this — every time I would open my e-mail there'd be twenty more: 'new backer alert,' 'new backer alert,' 'new backer alert' ... It was actually rather overwhelming."

Ceaser said he's fairly certain he was walking around at work with a stupid grin on his face all day.

There were several unintended consequences to the whole process that may have been even more significant to his cause, Ceaser noted. First, he says, he never anticipated that his Kickstarter campaign would end up generating newspaper articles bringing publicity to his efforts. If anything, he thought the opposite would be true — that maybe newspaper articles about **The New Parkway** would bring attention to his crowd-funding efforts.

What's more, he never anticipated how many potential equity investors would become interested in The New Parkway through watching the Kickstarter campaign. And because of SEC regulations, all the crowd funding platforms stipulate that you can offer anything you want as a "perk," so long as you aren't selling shares of stock in your company — that would be illegal, which is why sites like Kickstarter and IndieGoGo are careful never to use the word "invest." That said, a few days before his Kickstarter campaign ended, Ceaser says he must have received about seventy requests for investor packets from people who were interested in making an even bigger commitment than what was being offered on the web site. All told, he says the crowd funding effort was probably responsible, directly and indirectly, for $200,000 in funds.

Despite the rousing success of his own crowd funding campaign, Ceaser is somewhat cautious about recommending the approach to others. Because of how beloved an institution the Parkway was, he doesn't think his experience was at all representative — few of the people who gave money didn't have some kind of personal connection to the theater. Aside from that, many of the funders were motivated by the perks that were being offered, which were not insignificant. There were smaller items, like bundles of discounted movie passes, but also big-ticket items, such as being able to rent out the entire theater for an exclusive screening with your friends. Rather than viewing the funds as free money, Ceaser says he instead sees them as "unfunded liability."

"It's kind of a two-sided blade," Ceaser said. Obviously he needs the start-up money now. But assuming the theater reopens, he imagines that it would be really tough on business if too many people decided to cash in their perks during any concentrated time period.

Ceaser's other concerns about his experience are slightly more philosophical. He wonders, for instance, whether the people who run Kickstarter are doing this just to get rich. His experience with the site was a good one, but the fees he paid were significant — enough for him to wonder whether the whole thing might be a "racket." And, of course, Ceaser vows that he'll return all the money if the theater never opens — his conscience would haunt him until the day he dies otherwise, he says. Still, there's something uncomfortable about the fact that nothing is really holding him to that besides his own sense of ethics and a desire to keep his good name.

One of Kevin Lawton's criticisms of the way the crowd-funding sites are currently set up is that they're very limited in terms of the oversight they offer during the post-funding phase of a campaign. Both Kickstarter and IndieGoGo, for example, encourage project owners to continue to communicate with funders to keep them posted on the progress of their endeavor — but there's certainly nothing forcing them to do so. And if, say, Ceaser or anyone else were to take the cash he'd raised and disappear, the crowd-funding sites themselves are careful not to assume any legal responsibility for that — they just state the somewhat obvious fact that if you promise a perk, you're responsible for delivering on it. And if you didn't receive the DVD or the T-shirt you were promised? Well, presumably it's up to the individual to pursue legal action against the offending party, if indeed you think it's worth your time and energy to do so. What's more, the sites don't really have mechanisms in place that allow users to give "ratings" to project owners who fail to deliver on perks or are late or spotty in doing so.

Kickstarter, which is based in Brooklyn, didn't respond to any of this reporter's inquiries. But IndieGoGo's Danae Ringelmann says those who worry about crowd-funding fraud are ultimately making some specious assumptions about human behavior. She says her staff always coaches clients, as they're coming up with their fund-raising plan, to start off by reaching out to their inner circle — their friends and family members.

"So if you're someone who's trying to commit fraud, and you have no track record of anything you've ever done, and you're just trying to get money from random strangers, and you don't market it all to your core base, so that there's no money coming in from that, you're not going to raise money," Ringelmann said. "That's just the mechanics."

She explains that when the company first launched, they actually implemented a ratings system similar to what's used on sites like eBay, but they got rid of it because no one ever used it. The transparency of the crowd-funding process — the fact that all the information about a particular project is right there for you to see online, and stays there even after the project has been completed — is enough of a fraud deterrent. In other words, if you don't feel that a project offers enough information or assurances, you're under no obligation to give any money.

Ultimately, Lawton agrees that the transparency of the process greatly reduces the risk of fraud — where he differs is in his desire to increase that transparency, especially in that post-funding period, by including things like a rating system and increased documentation to show exactly what's being done with the money. When you're talking about $5 or $10 and a movie ticket or a CD, the stakes are relatively low. But things certainly change when you start talking about tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars — which Lawton believes become more prevalent as crowd-funding solidifies itself as the mechanism of choice for businesses that want to raise money.

LAWTON IMAGINES A KIND OF CONSOLIDATED MEGA-SITE THAT WILL BRING THE CROWD-FUNDING WORLD AND THE VENTURE-CAPITAL WORLD TOGETHER.

Another source of confusion is the issue of how the money that an individual or a company raises through crowd-funding ought to be treated from a taxation standpoint. Should the money be treated as a tax-exempt donation? (Certainly not, unless the organization raising the funds has nonprofit status.) Should it be treated as income? Or if you're pre-selling merchandise, is it considered a sale?

IndieGoGo advises campaign owners to consult their own tax attorney, noting, wisely, that what taxes they owe will vary widely depending on their location and the individual circumstances of their project. That said, taxation does appear to be yet another factor that aspiring entrepreneurs may not consider when deciding whether or not to use a crowd-funding site. Indeed, the successful crowd-funders interviewed for this story expressed their intent to pay taxes, but several were unsure of how exactly they ought to file.

UC Berkeley law professor **Eric Rakowski** is a tax law expert, though he gives the caveat that he hasn't investigated the issue of crowd-funding specifically. That said, he says there are some basic principles at play here, having largely to do with the motivation of the donor in each specific case. Rakowski said that if the donor is motivated by what the Supreme Court has termed "disinterested generosity," then the money can simply be treated as a gift and isn't subject to taxation. But if some tangible perk is given in exchange for the contribution, then that transaction can no longer be viewed as a pure "donation" per se, from a tax standpoint. In some instances, the perk is just a token payment — a T-shirt, let's say — in which case, Rakowski speculates, the bulk of the transaction can still be treated as a tax-exempt gift. Only the value of the T-shirt itself would count as taxable income.

But often, businesses and individuals are essentially using the crowd-funding platform to pre-sell merchandise, usually even at a discounted rate. In that case, Rakowski doesn't see any way of getting around the fact that those crowd-funding beneficiaries would owe state and local sales tax on the full value of whatever it is they're selling. If true, it would be another big chunk of money that would be taken out of the $15,000 or $50,000 that might have been raised — and that's on top of the cut taken by the crowd-funding site and on top of whatever cut Paypal or the credit card companies are taking. When all is said and done, a business might easily lose 20 percent of the total sum that gets pledged — especially since many project owners don't appear to be adjusting their pledge increments to pass any of these costs, like the sales tax, on to potential donors.

Because the crowd-funding phenomenon is so new, Lawton said that no one — perhaps not even the government — knows quite what to make of it yet. "There are tens of thousands of people, or hundreds of thousands, getting funding, and no one has any idea what they're doing." He suspects that in cases where the sums are relatively small, a lot of people probably aren't reporting the revenue on their tax returns at all — yet another reason the government might step in and impose its own regulations.

"It's going to be a disaster is what it's going to be," Lawton concluded, "because when the SEC marches in, you know the IRS is going to come in with them."

Ultimately, none of the entrepreneurs interviewed for this story had any real complaints about their experiences with crowd-funding. They all succeeded in raising the money they needed and are, presumably, on their way to bringing their dreams to fruition. Avalon Cafe's Dunlap even launched a second crowd-funding project, using IndieGoGo to sell tickets to a fund-raising event. Some efforts, like Ceaser's attempt to revive the Parkway, have hit bumps in the road — but by and large those have had nothing to do with the crowd-funding element. And only time will tell whether in the long run, raising the money in this manner ends up paying off.

And, despite his concerns, Lawton doesn't actually believe that crowd-funding is some kind of passing fad — quite the opposite, in fact. Some sites may get shut down, he says, while others tighten their systems and improve their safeguards. Ultimately, crowd-funding will be bigger than ever. Indeed, Lawton envisions a near-future when securities regulations will no longer relegate crowd-funding to pledge sites that only deal with relatively small amounts of money. He imagines a kind of consolidated mega-site that will bring the crowd-funding world and the venture-capital world together — one that offers all of the interconnectivity of existing social networking tools, but with the added benefit of an audience with big-money players who might take a liking to your little project and make a real investment in it, of several million dollars perhaps, so that you can make a real company out of it. "There will be a Facebook in this space," Lawton predicted.

So for aspiring business owners, folk musicians who want to go on tour, and teachers who need computers for the classroom, there's a hope that, even with the uncertainties, this does mark a fundamental change in how an enterprise gets funded, and a significant improvement in the likelihood of someone with a good idea finding the money to bring it to fruition.

IndieGoGo's Ringelmann quantified it this way: "Seven million ventures get started every year in America. And the average amount of money that actually is needed to get started is shockingly low. It's like $44,000. But the median need is actually less than $4,500. ... Ninety percent of funding that goes into new ventures every year does not come from venture capital, does not come from SBA loans. It comes from people maxing out their credit cards, refinancing their mortgage, or going into debt to start their little business. And that is the community that we're serving." ●

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Das Racist

IS DAS RACIST FOR REAL?

The most brilliant group in hip-hop succeeds by clowning its audience

By Rachel Swan

A veritable tome has already been written about hip-hop group **Das Racist**, and the group isn't even on a label. And according to Alameda-born frontman **Victor Vazquez**, Das Racist doesn't want one. The Brooklyn-based trio first went viral three years ago with its song "Combination Pizza Hut Taco Bell," an incantatory fast food joke rap that garnered comparisons to 20th-century composer **Olivier Messiaen**, as well as Cheech and Chong. The basic premise was simple: two guys on cell phones, trying to find each other at a dual dining franchise. And yet, reviewers were flummoxed. Was it a critique of American consumerism? A work of existentialism, as Pitchfork suggested? An inane dance track? A joke?

And with all that's been written on the group, most writers still aren't sure how to characterize emcees **Himanshu Suri**, Vazquez, and **Ashok Kondabolu** (aka Dap). The emcees are self-consciously ironic in a way that's probably sincere. They've grudgingly accepted the label "joke rap," yet there's also intentionality to everything they say, even when it sounds like gibberish. Their rap lyrics are a concatenation of non sequiturs and random references — to other hip-hop artists, to advertisements, to Gandhi and other political thinkers, to a *Complex* magazine cover with **Kanye West** in white face. They also reference **Nietzsche**, **Edward Said**, and **Spivak**, while quoting lyrics from **N.O.R.E.** They seldom provide context.

Das Racist's two mix tapes haven't helped break the spell that much. Nor has its stage performance. Performing for a sold-out crowd at **The Independent** last Wednesday, the three emcees looked identical to their hipster audience: rumpled jeans, T-shirts, baseball caps. Vazquez' cap had a [illegible] printed on the front. He seemed cranky. "Everybody turn around, and get the fuck out of here," he yelled, before the first note crackled through the stereo speakers. The audience cheered. "It was just a joke," Vazquez confessed later. "Although if people went home, that woulda been cool, too."

Vazquez and Suri met at **Wesleyan University**, a fact that writers often belabor. They are indeed dyed-in-the-wool liberal arts majors: Vazquez studied English while Suri pursued degrees in economics and South Asian studies. Hype man Kondabolu knew Suri from **Stuyvesant High School** in New York. He also occasionally performs alongside his brother **Hari Kondabolu**, a well-known stand-up comedian. They treat hip-hop as both an art and a way to convey political messages. Their song "You Oughta Know" is largely about frustrations from "arguing with white dudes on the Internet."

"As a white dude, all I can say is Das Racist is dope, bitch," wrote one commenter on YouTube.

For all its provocations, Das Racist might be the most brilliant hip-hop group in operation right now. With a discography that includes two free downloadable mix tapes, the group has nonetheless garnered more press attention than most rappers get in a lifetime — even ones signed to **Def Jam**. The emcees have collaborated with everyone from electro producer **Diplo** to jazz pianist **Vijay Iyer**. They're avid social networkers, which accounts for a lot of their best connections, Suri said. The Iyer collaboration — which was kind of a coup for an indie group with no label — started with a friendly dialogue on Twitter. "I just joked around with him a bunch," Suri said. "We just kinda realized that we have a shared sense of humor."

Perhaps the most bedeviling aspect to Das Racist is that the emcees steer their own public image so well. They've called themselves "the smartest dumb guys in the room," but they're actually the smartest. And they're canny around journalists. They sassed *New York Times* reporter **Deborah Solomon** in a December interview, and took *New Yorker* journalist **Sasha Frere-Jones** to task after Frere-Jones proclaimed hip-hop "dead" in 2009. Vazquez wrote a rebuttal to Jones' "death of hip-hop" article for Flavorpill magazine, in which he accused Jones of using "the age old 'Now, I don't mean to be racist but (insert something racist here) Kool-Aid.'" Jones later credited him and Suri for advancing the conversation. The whole incident boiled down to a single line in "Rapping 2 U," in which Vazquez talks about being featured in "your favorite Condé Nast publication." He continues: *They ask me all about my views on relations of races/and cut out all the radical shit for space/That's racist.*

And yet, when you see Das Racist perform live, you wonder whether these guys are for real. Or if they're purposefully trying to alienate their audience. Or if the ability to clown an audience is part of their appeal. "It's one of the little tricks we have up our sleeve," Vazquez said, admitting that yes, the group does traffic in reverse psychology.

At any rate, the audience at The Independent ate it up. "We made it! We made it!" Suri yelled when the band took the stage over a snake charmer instrumental. Then Suri and Vazquez launched into a borderline incomprehensible opening monologue — something about a store in San Francisco and about a redhead who worked at the store. Did we know the redhead? "Well, fuck her."

Next they plunged into a 25-minute set that included the songs "Irresponsible," "Rapping 2 U," and "You Oughta Know." They also danced to **Tina Turner**'s "Simply the Best," led the crowd in a sing-along to **Usher**'s "You Make Me Wanna," and promised to regale the crowd with the five elements of hip-hop — a nod to the old chestnut that hip-hop isn't just a music genre but a set of disciplines: emceeing, B-Boying, DJing, graffiti, and "knowledge." Or if you believe the dogma of Das Racist: "Kate Bush, Kate Bush, Kate Bush, Kate Bush and —" (the last one was undecipherable). The joke was a perfect summation of the emcees' entire sensibility. They've clearly studied the history and formal elements of the medium. They know it well enough to make fun of it. And they're not afraid to call out its clichés.

Das Racist closed out the set with a fake encore that turned out to be a real encore. In all, it was less a hip-hop show than a piece of performance art. Or was it? Judging from their set at The Independent, the members of Das Racist don't take their stage show that seriously. They treated it like a giant house party, keeping cache of alcohol on hand and periodically demanding more. When the lights went up, it really did feel like the party was over. ◆

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

VALENTINE'S DAY LISTINGS

ATTRACTIONS

Valentine's Day Valentines at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With various Valentine's Day-themed activities, in addition to Playland's standard offerings. Feb. 12-13. $10-$11. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

COMEDY

The Anti-Valentine's Day Comedy Bash Featuring a voluntary, audience-participatory airing of dating grievances (with prizes for the best stories), followed by a comedy show with Ronnie McDowell, Vanessa Lynch, and Boston guests. Bring a memento of your ex to shred. Mon., Feb. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. $10. Tommy T's Comedy Lounge, 5104 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. TommyTsComedy.com.

Mortified! Berkeley Valentine Valentine's Show Everyday adults share the pain, the heartbreak, the necking, the dry humping, the wretched love poems. With Valentine troupe/freestyle rap duo band The Freeze. Sat., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $15-$20. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Valentine's Day 2011 "Hollywoods Rain" The comedic singer-songwriters present their show "Hormonal Imbalance: A Barn Swinging Musical Revue," followed by a champagne-and-chocolate reception. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. $52. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800.

CULINARY & WINE

"Recipe for Valentine" Valentine's Day Dinner Five-course prix-fixe limited with a glass of champagne. Mon., Feb. 14, 5-10 p.m. $65. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord. 925-825-7700.

Romance, Wine and Valentines Featuring a series of five chocolate and wine pairings. Sun., Feb. 13, 1-4 p.m. $30-$35. Steven Kent Winery/La Rochelle Winery Tasting Room, 5443 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2335. StevenKentWinery.com.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Gather Four-course prix fixe dinner with a vegan/vegetarian option. Mon., Feb. 14. $70. Gather, 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley. 510-809-0400. GatherRestaurant.com.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Bocanova Dinner With a special four-course prix fixe menu in addition to Italian Colors' standard à la carte offerings, plus a Valentine giveaway. Mon., Feb. 14, 5:30-9:30 p.m. $39. Italian Colors, 2220 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-8094.

Valentine's Day Dinner at the Lake Chalet With a special Valentine's Day à la carte dinner menu, as well as Valentine gondola rides on Lake Merritt. Mon., Feb. 14, 5 p.m.-close. Lake Chalet, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-208-5253. TheLakeChalet.com.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Spenger's Featuring special Valentine's Day entrees. Reservations highly recommended. Mon., Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. various. Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7771. Spengers.com.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Zut! Dinner course based designed to be shared between two people, with optional à la carte items and a wine pairing for $25. Also featuring live music by the Ed the Valentine Music Group. Mon., Feb. 14, 5:30-10 p.m. $45. Zut!, 1820 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-644-0444. ZutonFourth.com.

FILM

Randy Moore Lingerie Night Screening of the comic classic, with live cast Randy Legal and a Valentine's Day-themed lingerie contest. Sat., Feb. 12, 11:55 p.m. $10. Landmark Albany Twin, 1115 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-464-5980. LandmarkTheatres.com/Market/SanFrancisco/AlbanyTwin.htm.

LITERARY EVENTS

Pre-Valentine's Day Poetry Reading Featuring Jeram Lama, Mary Sheila Wu, Tim Bias, Jah Hugh Robert-Sosinberg and Gonzalo Ambuilo. With free refreshments. Sat., Feb. 12, 4-6 p.m. Free. Books First Art & Artifacts, 1747 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

KIDS

My Valentine Valentine Wetlands walk, followed by arts and crafts. For kids 6-15 years old. Sat., Feb. 12, 1-4 p.m. $8. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

Valentine's Day Flowers for Kids Supervised arts and crafts for kids. Mon., Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $5 fee per craft project. Sadie Day's Cafe, 4316 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-655-7378. TumbleandTot.com.

Victorian Valentine's Day Make old-fashioned Valentine's Day crafts, learn the history of the holiday, and enjoy Victorian-era refreshments. Sat., Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $5-$8. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Awaken the Senses Presents: A Love-Affair Dinner Couples-oriented dinner with live blues, also featuring a ritual of aphrodisiacs with Lila Firestone. Sat., Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m. $50. Nyingma Center, 1850 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330. NyingmaCenter.org.

SALES & PROMOTIONS

Be Her Valentine: Sushi Wines Valentine Appreciation Night With complimentary wine and chocolate. Feb. 12-13, 5-7 p.m. Books Unbound, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-8087. GoodVibes.com.

Be Mine, Valentine Etsy Craft Show With artisan jewelry, soap, food, art, stationery, and more for sale. Sat., Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Show Place Art, 1300 Tenth St., Berkeley.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Loved' Love Jam With Iron Heart Free, Lila Caeppe and free spinning disco mix, rituals, and sweet jams, an art exhibition, a raffle and more. Sat., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $5. Amor Eterno Tattoo and Art Space, 1227 10th Ave., Oakland.

First Person Singular: I'm With Cupid Celebration for old-school pin groups, with songs performed. Valentine cocktails style, by local musicians Jon Christman and Theresa Kelly. Wed., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Pegasus Books, 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-6888.

My Little Sweetheart Valentine Flower & Dance Party For kids under six years old, with their parents. Featuring flowers and dancing. Advance registration required. Fri., Feb. 11, 6-7:30 p.m. $10. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-676-5200.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Vagina Monologues Eve Ensler's play performed by Berkeley High School students. Proceeds will go to the Berkeley High Band. Feb. 11, Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 19. $8-$12. Florence Schwimley Little Theater, 1920 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-6863. BerkeleyHigh.org.

The Vagina Monologues Benefit performance of Eve Ensler's play presented by V-Day at UC Berkeley. All proceeds go toward local nonprofits working to end violence against women. Feb. 10-12, 7 p.m. $10-$20. Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Berkeley.edu.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Valentine's Day Yoga and Thai Massage Workshop Couples- or friends-oriented workshop covering breath work, massage, and other tension-relief techniques. Sun., Feb. 13, 4-6 p.m. $25 per person. Nyingma Center, 1850 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330. NyingmaCenter.org.

MUSIC

A Special Valentine's Evening w/ Julie Holland w/ Freddie Pena. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. $16-$18, $20. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

A Valentine's Love Fest w/ Stephanie Mills & The Whispers. Sun., Feb. 13, 7 p.m. $49.75, $65.75, $87.75. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400. ParamountTheatre.com.

Albany High School Jazz Band & Brigade Dinner Valentine's Day Concert Mon., Feb. 14, 6 p.m. $15-$30, $20-$50. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020. TheFreight.org.

Valente Ono Sho Chamber Ensemble Presents Con a Day Bin Love w/ desserts and wine included. Sat., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $25-$35, $65 couples, $240 for a table of 8. Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-8575. TempleIsaiah.org.

Valente Ono Sho Chamber Ensembles Presents Con a Day Bin Love w/ desserts and wine. Sat., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., $25-$35, $65 per couple, tables of 8 for $240. Piedmont Community Church, Guild Hall, Piedmont. 510-547-5700. PiedmontCCh.org.

The Decemberists w/ Mountain Man. Mon., Feb. 14, 8 p.m. $37.50. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com.

The Fool Moon Love Drones Valentine's Awaken Sat., Feb. 12, 9 p.m. $8. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Rock You St. Valentine w/ Slow Trucks, Rabbit Ears, Oceanography, & more. Sat., Feb. 12, 9 p.m. $5. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174. StorkClubOakland.com.

Honeymoon w/ Chic Noom Music. Mon., Feb. 14, 9 p.m. $10. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St., San Francisco. 415-861-5016. CafeduNord.com.

The Look of Love w/ Hot Pocket, DJ Whooligan & B.Rivet. Mon., Feb. 14, 10 p.m. $5. $3. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St., San Francisco. 415-552-7788. Elbo.com.

Love Is for Suckers w/ Girl Alo'ulaht, The Purple Team, famed PELLA Clique, The Jinx, Shavone Powell, DJ Beats Me, Jennifer Melaled & Duke The Boorman. Mon., Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Valentine accepted. famed Buzz, 2308 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4073. MamboCafe.com.

Paula West & the George Mesterhazy Quartet starting Jan. 12. Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through March 13. $35-$45. $87 for Valentine's Day special. Rrazz Room, 222 Mason St., San Francisco. TheRrazzRoom.com.

Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Valentine with Special Guest Sheila E. Feb. 10-12, 8 & 10 p.m. Sun., Feb. 13, 5 & 7 p.m. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. $26-$35. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco. 415-655-5600. Yoshis.com.

The Loved Ones w/ Young Prisms, DJ Aaron Axelsen (on Monday) & The Susan (on Tuesday). Feb. 14-15, 8 p.m. $14. sold out. The Independent, 628 Divisadero St., San Francisco. 415-771-1421. TheIndependentSF.com.

Flower Romance. Mon., Feb. 14, 6 p.m. free. Amoeba Music, 1855 Haight St., San Francisco. 415-831-1200. Amoeba.com.

Twog! Twog! Twog! Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. Hal Theater, 14400 East 14th Street, San Leandro. 510-614-1274.

Tower Of Power Sat., Feb. 12, 8 & 10 p.m. Sun., Feb. 13, 2 & 8 p.m. Mon., Feb. 14, 8 & 10 p.m. $45. Yoshi's, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. Yoshis.com.

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

EVENTS&ATTRACTIONS

The Revolution Will Be Delicious

New film series highlights the untold stories of Berkeley's School Lunch Initiative

If They Cook It They Will Eat It

First, a disclaimer of sorts: *Lunch Love Community* is not about Alice Waters. Of course, you can't make a film about Berkeley's landmark **School Lunch Initiative** without recognizing the woman who was a considerable personal, political, and economic force behind its development. But mostly, the multi-part film project focuses on the aspects of the initiative that haven't yet been featured in *Oprah* segments or breathless magazine profiles. It's easy to make a symbol of Waters, but as filmmaker **Sophie Constantinou** tells it, the movement is bigger and broader and more complex than the familiar narrative. That's precisely what she and co-filmmaker **Helen De Michiel** intended to illuminate with their series of short films.

"This is about the community rather than the visionary," Constantinou said. "That isn't to say her input hasn't been huge, but we're not focusing on that because that's the story we've all been told. ... The actual grassroots movement that made this thing happen, made Berkeley a landmark for the nation, doesn't get much attention. The community and the civic engagement is the untold story here — the unsung heroes."

In the late-1990s, a group of parents, policymakers, chefs, and educators, disappointed by the processed foods kids were being served in school, began formulating what would eventually become the first school-lunch program of its kind: free or at least very cheap food at every school, all nutritionally dense and largely organic, and buttressed by science and health curricula in the classroom. "It was a total overhaul of a public institution," Constantinou said. "It was a school lunch, but it was also curriculum, and it was a pretty radical idea." What began as a simple vision has become an emblem for the wider food-justice movement, but it was never that simple. Over the years, countless battles have been waged and questions asked. The idea's evolution, De Michiel said, has been far from linear.

"It's really a mosaic of stories, instead of something with one particular hero or heroine," she said. So instead of forcing a single narrative out of all these interlocking stories, De Michiel and Constantinou made a series of vignettes, all about five or ten minutes long and focusing on one particular element of the story. They were released online as copyable, clippable, shareable short films. "Flamin' Hot" explores middle-schoolers' affinity for the eponymous Cheetos variety and asks how much schools can reasonably expect to change kids' habits. "The Labor of Lunch" goes behind the scenes in the school district's central kitchen. Other clips explain the initiative's history and ask whether the program is replicable beyond Berkeley.

Ultimately, these vignettes will be fused into a longer documentary, but in the meantime, the concept is to let them spread the story of Berkeley's school lunches far and wide. "This is the kind of thing filmmakers usually do after a long-form film is made," De Michiel said. "But this is a different process. The form of the webisodes is really about the function, which is to try and activate communities around changing food."

As Constantinou put it, the point is that "you don't need a celebrity. You don't need an Alice Waters to do this."

Lunch Love Community will have its cinema premiere on Sunday, February 13, at **Pacific Film Archive** (2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley), as part of a special event that includes a panel discussion with the filmmakers and various students and activists. 2:30 p.m., $5.50-$9.50. LunchLoveCommunity.org

— Ellen Cushing

ATTRACTIONS

Orchestra's Day Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With various Valentine's Day-themed [illegible] in addition to Playland's standard offerings. Feb. 12-13. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

25th Annual Danville Recreation Program Expo Learn about Danville's Spring and Summer recreation offerings; meet day camp and aquatics staff and get a discount on registration. Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville.

Lunar New Year Celebration, and Other Asian Traditions Family-friendly celebration of Asian traditions, featuring lion dancing, a mochi pounding demonstration, magic, storytelling, and much more. Sun., Feb. 13, 12-4:30 p.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-238-2200, MuseumCA.org.

Yemanja Arts Festival Traditional celebration of [illegible] and [illegible], with dancing, live music, [illegible] and prizes for sale. Sat., Feb. 12, 7 p.m.-midnight. $15 in advance, $18 at the door. Casa de Velasco, 1901 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

KIDS

Mazzocchi Charter Middle School Information Night Open house and information session for the parent cooperative charter school. Wed., Feb. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. free. Mazzocchi Charter School, 1515 Carlson Blvd., Richmond.

Valentine's Day Crafts for Kids Supervised art and crafts for kids. Mon., Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $5 fee per craft project. Rockin' Baby Cafe, 4218 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7378, [illegible].com.

Victorian Valentine's Day Make Victorian-era Valentine's Day crafts, learn the history of the holiday, and enjoy Victorian-era refreshments. Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. $5-$8. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 925-973-3200.

SOCIAL EVENTS

BingOpera: Big Voices, Big Prizes, Big Hair and Big Fun Special opera-themed bingo game featuring performances by musicians from the SF Opera and SF Chamber Orchestra. Thu., Feb. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $20. Regional Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-845-5000, [illegible].org.

Other Love Jam With free tacos, DJs Cooper and Trie spinning [illegible], rollers, and street jams, an art exhibition, a raffle, and more. Sat., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $5. Asian Pacific Asian and Art Space, 1277 18th Ave., Oakland.

First Person Singular: I'm With Cupid Celebration of old-school girl groups, with songs performed, cabaret recital-style, by local musicians Joe Christiano and Theresa Kelly. Wed., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Pegasus Books, 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-6888.

My Little Sweetheart Valentine's Dance & **Dance Party** For kids under ten years old, with their parents. Featuring dinner and dancing. Advance registration required. Fri., Feb. 11, 6-7:30 p.m. $10. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, 925-676-5200.

Pub Quiz Teams of two to five people compete for prizes. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080, TheMissouri[illegible].com.

Ragin' Cajun Healing Richmond Foundation Event Mardi Gras-themed fundraiser event for the Sports Wing Healing Therapeutic Foundation [illegible], featuring music, dancing, a buffet dinner and a silent auction. Fri., Feb. 11, 6:30-11 p.m. $75. Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton, 925-426-9600, PalmEventCenter.com.

Stilts and Strollers Redwood Walk Naturalist-led educational walking tours, for toddlers and their kids (under 2 1/2 years old). Starting Feb. 15: Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Continues through March 15. $75. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward, 510-670-7270.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

East Bay Nature Hike Moderately difficult three-mile loop. Bring a picnic lunch. Thu., Feb. 10, 10 a.m. Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, 5755 McBryde Ave., Richmond, 510-236-1262, EBParks.org/Parks/Wildcat.

Over The Hills Gang Hike For hikers age 50 and older. Tue., Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. free. Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, 5551 Giant Highway, Richmond, 888-327-2757, EBParks.org.

PICKS

Gold Country Classic

Downtown Oakland is certainly fit to house hundreds of gymnasts, but who knew it was also prepared to host a competition among them? Friday through Sunday, Feb. 11-13, the Gold **Country Classic** moves to the **Oakland Marriott City Center** (1001 Broadway) for the first time. The event, now in its 33rd year, is a multi-level event. Hundreds of club teams will participate along with local collegiate squads. Cal and "Stanford are sending their stars' teams to the hotel's 3,500-square-foot gymnastic competition space. And, of course, for those who want to be there when it all begins, book a room at the hotel and you can roll out of bed and onto the mats. Check the web site for the full schedule. $10-$15. GoldCountryClassic.com — *Kathy Klevman*

Love Train

Singled Out on BART

Let's be honest: Aside from being a means of transportation, BART makes for a damn good meet market. Think about it: all those attractive people pressed up against each other, the aphrodisiac rhythm of the train, the alluring cross-section of office drones, students, and shady-looking types clandestinely hocking the outrageous prices.

It might as well be a trendy pick-up bar. So it's a wonder nobody thought of **Singled Out on BART** sooner. Set for Monday, Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day, naturally), the grassroots event invites folks to indicate their unattached status by tying ribbons around their fingers (pink if you're looking for a woman, blue if you're looking for a man). The rest is up to you. All trains, all day, free. — *Ellen Cushing*

First Person Singular: I'm With Cupid

Girl groups may be one of the most underrated musical genres of all time: There's an entire canon of golden-age girl-pop that's rarely unearthed, and even more rarely honored. In honor of that legacy, this month's iteration of **Pegasus Books** (1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley) **First Person Singular** series celebrates both Valentine's Day and the likes of The Shirelles, The Ronettes, and The Chiffons in all their bubblegummy glory. But there's a twist: Local musicians **Theresa Kelly** and **Joe Christiano**, accompanied by **Joshua Raoul Brody** on piano, will bring us the music in the style of a classic recital. The event on Wednesday, Feb. 16, benefits WriterCoach Connection, which pairs Berkeley public-school students with adult writing coaches. 7:30 p.m., $10 suggested donation. 510-525-6888 or PegasusBookstore.com — *E.C.*

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Eva Hesse's "S417"

Nice Leftovers at Berkeley Art Museum

Are Eva Hesse's studio relics art?

In Jorge Luis Borges' story "The Zahir," an Argentine fashionista discovers that the cylindrical hats she bought during the war from a black marketeer "had never been worn in Paris at all — consequently they were not hats, but arbitrary, unauthorized eccentricities." While we in the art world know that anything a milliner calls a hat is a hat, that old need to map out the boundaries of art remains even as restless artists hot foot it back and forth across borders.

Despite her early death at age 34 in 1970, American sculptor Eva Hesse is considered one of the most important and innovative artists of the 1960s. So the ***Eva Hesse: Studiowork*** exhibition of various "test pieces" (her term), "studio leavings" (friend Sol LeWitt), or "sub-objects" and "thought experiments" (curator **Briony Fer**'s) gets us going again. (Many of the pieces are in **Berkeley Art Museum**'s permanent collection, gifts of the artist's sister Helen Charash; the co-curator is **Barry Rosen** of the Hesse Estate.) We're all familiar with horror stories about unusual artworks destroyed by unwitting janitors or customs agents; showing Hesse's "race fingers," to use artist Gabriel Orozco's term, risks the opposite: "the art historian's nightmare... to find that the objects that you have taken for art are really the objects discarded in the trash," said Fer. Incidentally, Hesse's friend, the sculptor Ruth Vollmer, fished a discarded sculpture from Giacometti's studio trash: was that art if he denied it?

However, so unassailable is Hesse's sterling reputation, and so seductive her tragic myth, that finding fault with this or that experimental piece seems a petty exercise. The curved, planar papier-mâché vessel fragments, delicately suggestive of fallen leaves; the crumpled latex boxes and pouches with their dangling tendrils and umbilical cords; the black balloon brains hanging in their scrotal fishing nets; and the various weird, funny excrescences that another artist friend, Mel Bochner, likened to plastic vomit — all these make for an entertaining, if slightly diffuse show, reminding us of Hesse's powerful canonical works now in jeopardy due to the use of impermanent latex and fiberglass.

Hesse would be 75 this year had she lived. What she achieved in a career as short as Van Gogh's — one decade — is staggering. Hesse, in a 1970 interview: "I have no fear. I take risks. My attitude is totally unconservative. It's total freedom and willingness to work. I'm willing really to walk on the edge, and if I haven't achieved it, that's where I want to go." *Studiowork* runs through April 10 at **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley), 510-643-6494 or BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

—DeWitt Cheng

ART GALLERIES

Albatross Pub, Outlaws & Aliens Paintings by Alelia Strock. Through April 30. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Bedford Gallery, Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy Botanical specimens and photography by Steven J. Joseph. Through March 27. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center, Identify Work focused on the theme of "identity" by Oakland, Emeryville and Berkeley public schools. Through March 20. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, Lost Moments Photography by Jasmin Koos. Feb. 14-April 30. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Una Voz, Life on Location Work by Oakland Davis and Jane Hoopley. Through Feb. 28. 1332-D Park St., Alameda. 510-205-4828. [illegible]

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, Limerick Work by Solomon Rosenwald. Through March 19. **Flux** Acrylic paintings by Alexander Atamanov. Through March 19. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

The Compound Gallery, Outland the Box With work in various media by Art in a Box Artists. Through March 6. Free. 1167 65th Street, Oakland.

Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery, Journey of Old Roads Work by Larry Still, Pamela Smith and [illegible]. Through Feb. 25. 1515 Clay St., Oakland. 510-622-8190. OaklandCulturalArts.org.

Doug Adams Gallery, Hobos to Street People: Artists' Responses to Homelessness from the New Deal to the Present Retrospective of art inspired by and [illegible] homelessness, from the New Deal through the present day. With an opening reception Thurs., Jan. 27, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Through March 11. 2798 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley.

Expressions Gallery, All You Need Is Love Group show featuring work by Elizabeth North, Margo Evert, Adriana Pinotto, and many others. Through March 25. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Fingado Art Gallery, More Work by Pam Fingado Mixed-media work. Feb. 11-28. 2025 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible]-9884.

Firehouse Arts Center, The Look of Jazz Exhibiting work by Charles Adams, Ben Fields and James Gayles. Through Feb. 22. $5 suggested donation. 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-4847. www.PleasantonFirehouseArtsCenter.org/

Firehouse North, The Evolution of Meaning New work by Brandon Getz. Through Feb. 11. **Figure and Landscape** Paintings by Karen Zallo Shore and Will Murray. Feb. 11-28. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Float Gallery, Sacred Terrain Black-and-white photography by Cathy Shine and [illegible] of Eli Kirshner. Through March 19. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, Of Tidal Channel Work by Will Dilt and Rebecca Fegg. Through March 29. 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

Institute of East Asian Studies, Crystal of Extravagant Radiance Arabic Chinese calligraphy by Har Bock Boon. Through March 11. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6536. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Johansson Projects, Animapop Work by Alex Cann and Tim Graytor. Through March 5. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery, Aero Soul Art 2 Through Feb. 27. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.WordPress.com.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, Harmonious Acrylic paintings by Nadia Rath. Through Feb. 26. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. JuliesTea.com.

JT Gallery, [illegible] Alameda Exploring the Absence of Color Work in various media by David Peterson, Kate Koonce, Brendan Quinn, Angie Manarano, Jhutchana Lande and Philip Lang. Through March 5. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-245-5860. [illegible]

Kala Gallery and Art Institute, Kala Artists: Annual Exhibition New work in various media by over 100 artists affiliated with Kala. Through Feb. 11. **Fresh**

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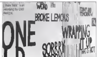
PICKS

Twist and Crawl

The **National Institute of Art & Disabilities** in Richmond, better known as NIAD, provides artists possessing developmental disabilities or challenges with art materials, facilities, feedback, and support. ***Twist and Crawl***, named for a song by The English Beat, is the first of a three-exhibition series entitled ***Life of the World to Come*** showing both NIAD and mainstream artists. It's a sensitively installed, handsome show of small- to medium-size drawings, paintings, collages, and mixed-media pieces demonstrating anew that creativity defies categorizations. The featured artists are **James Aarons, Chris Ashley, Elaine Bradford, Mia Brown, Timothy Buckwalter** (the show's curator), **Sharon Butler, Willie Harris, Cliff Hengst, Shirley How, Lance King, Katy Stone, Danny Thach, John Zurier**, and the late **Edmond Shea**. Let's try the Reed test: the Ashley Burkeson's painting of eyes seems to follow you, or is that just critic's karma? *Twist and Crawl* runs through March 16 at **NIAD** (551 23rd St., Richmond). 510-620-0290 or NIAD.org — *DeWitt Cheng*



"Then Tell" wall painting by Cliff Hengst.

Dennis Cheng

Celebrate People's History

Debs, Douglass, Goldman, Huerta, Ho [illegible], Sandino, Tubman, and Sacco and Vanzetti may be better known, but Dr. Marie Equi, Aunt Molly Jackson, Jane Jacobs, Wangari Maathai, Chico Mendes, Primo Tapia, the Bonus Marchers, the Co-Madres, the Durruti Column, the White Rose, and the Amazon Army are equally inspiring activists, gadflies, and revolutionists. **Josh McPhee's *Celebrate People's History*** project, which has commemorated such revolutionary dissidents for thirteen years, is the subject of a new book as well as of this show of some fifty posters. Works by the Bay Area's **Jesus Barraza, Melanie Cervantes, Eric Drooker, Art Hazelwood, Fernando Marti, Claude Moller**, and **Jos Sances** are included. Did you know that Walt Disney alleged communist influence over his cartoon animators union before the House Un-American Activities Committee? *Celebrate People's History* runs through February 27 at **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Sales proceeds benefit Dara Greenwald, McPhee's partner, who is battling cancer. 510-849-2568 or LaPena.org — *D.C.*

Work Through Feb. 19. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Kefi Frames + Art: Art Santos, I Quit Mixed media assemblage and sculpture by Lily [illegible]. With Art Murmur receptions Fridays, Feb. 4 and Mar. 4, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through March 25. 41 [illegible] 22nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. KefiFrames.com.

La Peña Cultural Center: Celebrate People's History Work by over forty poster artists on display. Through Feb. 27. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Oakland Gallery Building: Quarterly at Latham Square Work by [illegible]. Through March 8. 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. ProArtsGallery.org.

Los Medanos College Art Gallery: California College and Illustration With work by Lisa Congdon, Hugh D'Andrade, [illegible] McKenna and Jason Marks. Through March 3. 2700 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg. Info: 925-439-2181 x3122.

Maple Hall: The Art of Living Marsh 2011 Paintings, pastels and prints by [illegible] Carey, Ron Smith and [illegible] Turner. Through Feb. 20. 13831 San Pablo Ave. #4, San Pablo. 510-[illegible].

Mercury 20 Gallery: Mercury [illegible]: Artist's Oakland Artist's Multiples by Charlie [illegible], Kathleen King, P.K. [illegible], and others. Through Mar. 27. **The Fabric of Night** Giclée prints by Peter Honig. With a First Friday opening reception Fri., Feb. 4, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through Feb. 26. **Deep Roots** Paintings by Jean Weiss. With an opening reception Fri., Feb. 4, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through Feb. 26. **True Trees** Group show featuring work by Maya Kabat, Eric [illegible] and Jill McLennan. Through Feb. 26. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-484-7785. MercuryTwenty.com.

Mills College Art Museum: Floating [illegible]. Video installation by the Danish artist [illegible]. Through March 13. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Oakland Museum of Children's Art: The Wonderful Oakland World of [illegible] 2011 With work by young artists from across the country. Through March 20. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

NIAD Art Center: [illegible] With work by artists across the country [illegible] by those from the National Institute of Art and Disabilities studio program. Through March 16. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Oakopolis Creativity Center: Trailers Unlimited Photography by Nat [illegible]. Through March 12. 447 28th St., Oakland.

Pro Arts Gallery: 2 + 2 Salon Work by Chris Fraser and [illegible]. Through Feb. 25. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Royal NoneSuch Gallery: Yielding Up Room on the Floor Curated by [illegible], featuring videos by [illegible], Yvonne Rainer, the [illegible], and others. Through March 4. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

Rowe Contemporary Art and Design Gallery: Two States Work by Paloma [illegible]. With an opening reception Fri., Feb. 4, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Through Feb. 26. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible]: A Cabinet of Curiosities Work by Joy [illegible]. Through Feb. 15. 360 26th St., Oakland.

Swarm Studios + Gallery: [illegible] Work by Kathy [illegible], Alexis Mackenzie and Julia [illegible]. Through Feb. 27. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery: New Work by Amy Kaufman Paintings. Through March 5. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. [illegible].com.

[illegible]: Altered States Collaborative interdisciplinary work by Ruth [illegible] and Kit Rosenberg. Through Feb. 13. 2-5 p.m. 788 40th St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room: Photography by Jennifer [illegible] Through Feb. 28. **The Photography of Joanie McGregor** Close-up nature photography. Through Feb. 28. 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2300. WenteVineyards.com.

Worth Ryder Gallery: 2011 First Year MFA Exhibition Work by Karl [illegible], Frank [illegible], Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, Kari [illegible], Amy [illegible], Jennie Smith, and Brett Walker. Through Feb. 10. **Dislocated** Featuring work by Youmna Chlala, Yvonne [illegible], [illegible], Nora [illegible], and Katie [illegible]. Feb. 16-March 5. 116 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-2582.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum: [illegible] An artistic exploration of corporate branding, with work by Jeff [illegible]. Through Nov. 30. **Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-2000** Featuring posters, movie stills, and various other artifacts from the Bay Area's rich history of alternative filmmaking. Through March 6. $4-$11. **[illegible]** Paintings by Hans Hofmann. Through June 30. Free-$10. **[illegible]** Work by Emily [illegible]. Through March 6. **Echoes of the Past: [illegible] Dynasty Cultural Painting** Chinese paintings from the 13th through 17th centuries. Through June 29. Free-$10. **[illegible]** A retrospective of the avant-garde sculptor's work. Through April 30. Free-$10. **[illegible]** Commissioned work includes sculpture and furniture [illegible]. Through Nov. 30. **[illegible]: Looking at [illegible]** Retrospective of the [illegible] painter James McNeill Whistler's work. Through April 17. Free-$10. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College: Lee and Grant Historical exhibit about the Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. With various lectures and special events; visit [illegible] for full schedule. Through March 20. $4, free for Museum and Hearst members. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-CA.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus locations in North America and the Mexican region. Daily. **Native Californian Cultures** The "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection [illegible] native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Institute of Mosaic Art: [illegible] Portraiture A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. **California Mosaic Center: Celebrating Diversity Through Mosaics** An ongoing group show. Daily. 3001 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-433-9899. InstituteofMosaicArt.com. ●

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

The Anti-Valentines Day Berkeley Bomb Featuring a voluntary, audience-participatory airing of dating grievances (with prizes for sob stories), followed by a comedy show with Vartan Mesquita, Ramiele Lyons, and Jazzee guests. Bring a keepsake of your ex! Mon., Feb. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. $10. Burge's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St. Dublin. 925-264-4413. BurgeComedy.com.

Bay Area Black Comedy Competition Featuring local established and up-and-coming black comics. Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 12, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 13, 1 & 9:30 p.m. $10-$40, plus two-item minimum. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Be Funny With local comics. Hosted by Christopher Higgins and featuring DJ Avid Tha. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

Burge's All Star Comedy Bowl Starring Phil Johnson with Alex G. Mari Garcia and John Pointer. Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30-9 p.m. $10 plus two-item minimum. Burge's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St. Dublin. 925-264-4413. BurgeComedy.com.

The Dukes Featuring local "Veteran" Sean Keane, Alex Hall, Becky Sinclair and Chris Garcia, with rotating guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $8. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-401-7987. DarkRoomSF.com.

Berkeley Rocks, Will Franken, Ruth Schumann, Amadeo The Wonderwoman Stand-up and storytelling. Sat., Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

The Berkeley Grab Bag With professional and amateur comics doing five-to ten-minute sets. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. $5, plus two-item minimum. Burge's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St, Dublin, 925-264-4413. BurgeComedy.com.

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each act gets 4-5 minutes. Mondays, 7 p.m. $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

The Geek Sinners Present: "Unsafely 200: They Live?" Live version of the Sinners' podcast, with burlesque performances by Lady Satan and Sparkly Devil, as well as drink specials. Fri., Feb. 11, 9 p.m. $5 donation. Sanctuary for the Arts, 407 28th St., Oakland.

Jokes 'n Java Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. fourth and Second Friday of every month. 6:30-9 p.m. free. Woody's Cafe, 1841 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-893-8281. WoodysCafe.biz/comedy/index.html

Good Nabors's Good and Bad Comedy Gentlemen With Reggie Mathews and Mary Van Ness. Thu., Feb. 10, 10 p.m.-midnight. $5. Time Out Bar & Piano, 1822 Grant St., Concord. 925-798-0811. TimeOutConcord.com.

Jesters Funny Mondays Weekly comedy and variety showcase featuring a rotating cast of comedians and written by local Ambassador Manga Comm. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

Oakland Comedy Slam and Open Mic Hosted by Isaiah & Benton Jeffries, with D. R. G. Second Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $5-$10. Club Bolo, 136 12th St., Oakland. 510-763-[illegible].

Saturday Night Comedy with Aaa Randolph, Moris, Aaron Sarcenia, Abbie and Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $15-30 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Domagabe Thu., Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

L@TE: Friday Nights @ BAM/PFA: "Dance in Disabled Colors" Featuring a dance performance by Bonnie Purnell of Crazy Train and the Brontez Purnell Dance Company, along with live music. Fri., Feb. 11, 5:30-9 p.m. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

LIVE VARIETY

Magic Month Variety Show Improvisational audience-participatory variety show blending music, dance, comedy, and more. Fri., Feb. 11, 8-10 p.m. $5-$10. Meadows Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-893-1074. ArtsCenter.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs Through Feb. 27. $17-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Orlando Bruno Written by John Corland, directed by Kat Smith. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 27. $25; $22 for students and seniors. California Conservatory Theatre, 999 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-632-8850. CCTSL.org.

Boeing-Boeing Production of the Tony Award-winning romantic comedy. Written by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Beverly Cross, and directed by Michael Butler. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 21. $38-$42. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

Collapse Comedy inspired by the 2007 collapse of the Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis. Written by Allison Moore, directed by Jasson Minadakis and starring Aldo Billingslea, Gabriel Marin, Carrie Paff, and Amy Resnick. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. through March 11, 1 p.m. Through March 13, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 19, 2 p.m. Continues through March 13. $10-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Comedy of Errors Shakespeare's early comedy, produced and performed by students from DVC's theater program. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 13. $20. Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill. 925-685-4445.

Driving Miss Daisy Written by Alfred Uhry. Directed by Scott Fryer and featuring L. Peter Callender, Ann Kendrick, and Tim Bauer. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Through Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 13. $10-$38. Ensemble Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-482-5[illegible].

Gold Dust: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by Oakland native Tom Ryan. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 13. $20-$35 sliding scale. Reserved seating $50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

The Full Monty Comedy about a group of men who decide to become strippers. Written by Terrence McNally, music and lyrics by David Yazbek. Directed by Maureen Moore, and featuring actors from the Pinole Community Playhouse. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 26. $22 general; $17 for seniors and students. Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole. 510-724-3688. PinolePlayers.org.

Heartbreak House Production of the classic play by George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Robert Estes and featuring Michael Walden, Tayler Wilmerding, and Annalee Hawkins. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 13, 2 p.m.; Thu., Feb. 17, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 19. $15 general; $12 students and seniors. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

Through the Night Directed by David Moore and written by Danny Segal. Starting Feb. 11. Fridays, Saturdays, 8:15 p.m.; Thu., Feb. 24, 8:15 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 27, 2:15 p.m.; Sun., March 6, 2:15 p.m. Continues through March 6. $18-$20. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

The Mystery Plays Two intertwined mystery one-acts, written by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa and directed by Patrick Sarcenia. Starring Bill Chessman, George Jacks and Brad Graham. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 20, 2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 26. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

The Last Goodbye Café Monologue about American ..., performed by Mike Dooley and directed by Sean Michael Gregory. Every other Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; every other Wednesday, 8 p.m.; every other Wednesday-Thursday, 2 p.m.; every other Sunday, 3 & 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 21. $20-$30. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Little Shop of Horrors The camp classic, written by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. Directed by Marissa Wolf and starring performers from Shotgun Playhouse's teen program. Sat., Feb. 12, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 13, 12 & 5 p.m. $12-$15. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

A Man's Road Original play based on Franz Kafka's novel *The Castle*. Written and directed by Aaron Henne; featuring Theo Black, Michael Kelly and Sybil [illegible]. Tickets at CentralWorks.org. Starting Feb. 12. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Sat., March 5, 8 p.m.; Sat., March 12, 5 p.m. Continues through March 13. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Rags Musical about "love and struggle in the New York City tenement." Written by Joseph Stein, with lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Directed by Eric [illegible]. Sundays, 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, 2:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 27. $22-$33, with discounts available. Willows Theatre, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. 925-798-1300. WillowsTheatre.org.

Staged Reading: Othello Shakespeare's tragedy, directed by Kate Jopson. Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. $5. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. Pages.sbcglobal.net/bfuu.

Through Grand Suggestion Improvised theatrical monologues by Jeff Greenwald. Saturdays, 5 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 19. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

The Time Machine: Love Behind the Clef A performance of Edward [illegible] adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel *The Time Machine*. Directed by Rob Jones. Fri., Feb. 11, 8 p.m. $12-$15. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6031.

The Vagina Monologues 10th annual benefit performance of Eve Ensler's play, presented by V-Day at UC Berkeley. All proceeds go toward local nonprofits working to end violence against women. Feb. 10-12, 8 p.m. $10-$20. Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8000. berkeley.edu.

PICKS

The Grapes of Wrath

The latest iteration of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, which opened last week at **TheatreFIRST** in Oakland, is unquestionably a **Jon Tracy** production. Though it is faithful to the original stage adaptation by playwright Frank Galati, this Grapes includes several Tracyan flourishes. Characters beatbox, bang art pieces with sticks, and enhance the narrative with ensemble versions of current pop songs (culled from the likes of Kanye West, The White Stripes, and Radiohead). Moreover, the set-up is high-concept, skeletal, and low-tech, reminiscent of the design Tracy used for *Of the Earth* in December. (That one included a lightbulb that doubled as a Cyclops.) In this case, a bed frame functions alternately as a doorway and as the Joads' jalopy, while a primrose has dense metaphorical significance — it's uprooted right as the Joads leave their home in Oklahoma and head out west. Set designer Martin Flynn helped Tracy achieve this vision. Ryan Tasker gives a swift, careful performance, switching hats to play Pa Joad and Uncle John. Michael Barrett Austin is persuasive as preacher-turned labor-organizer Jim Casy. Through February 26 at **Marion E. Greene Black Box Theatre** (351 19th St., Oakland). $15-$30. 510-436-5085 or TheatreFirst.com — *Rachel Swan*

Black Choreographers Festival

Now in its seventh year of showcasing African and African-American dance and culture, the **Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now** opens Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11-12 at **Laney College** (900 Fallon St., Oakland). This year's roster of dynamic dancemakers includes **Zak Diouf** and **Naomi Washington** of Oakland's incomparable Diamano Coura West African Dance Company; **Corey Action** and **Tonia Shine**, hip-hop artists who helm New Style Motherlode in Rockridge; East Bay-based international dance artist **Mahea Uchiyama**, **Tyler Knowlin**'s urban tap dance, and contemporary movement by Brazilian **Paco Gomes** and PUSH Dance's **Raissa Simpson**. Artists this round are bound to pique curiosity, so a question-and-answer session follows the Friday performance. The festival continues over the two following weekends in San Francisco. 8 p.m., $12-$20. 1-800-838-3006 or BCFHereAndNow.com — *Claudia Bauer*

The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs

Few people [illegible] as deftly as **Mike Daisey**, a monologist who successfully combines investigative journalism with a bewitching

The Grapes of Wrath.

Rob Wonder

performance style. In his latest play Daisey finds the sexy angle on Steve Jobs, a man who Daisey describes alternately as an imperialist and a technology wizard. Disguised as a businessman, Daisey snuck into the Foxconn factories of southern China where Apple products are made. He witnessed firsthand the miserable labor conditions that have caused workers to throw themselves from the roof of the manufacturing plant. In *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, Daisey reveals Apple's ignoble practices in minute, gory detail, carefully building a case against Jobs and the entire Mac empire. Yet he tempers that diatribe with a parallel narrative of computer fetishism, recalling his own experience with Mac products and electronics geekery. Only a true technophile could make such a convincing argument and single-handedly turn Mac into a wedge issue. Through February 27 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $17-$73. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org. — *R.S.*

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FRIDAY NIGHTS @ BAM/PFA

THEATER REVIEW

THINGS FALL APART

How Allison Moore used a bridge collapse as metaphor

By Rachel Swan

Carrie Paff and Gabriel Marin in Collapse. Allen

Playwright **Allison Moore** probably wasn't the first person to see the 2007 Minneapolis bridge collapse as a metaphor for other things falling apart. But she was the first person to turn it into a perfectly plotted play about a failing relationship. Moore's new world premiere, *Collapse*, was incubated through **Aurora Theatre's Global Age Project**, which encourages playwrights to develop material around 21st-century issues. Like **Robert Glaudini**'s 2007 play *Jack Goes Boating* — which came to Aurora two years ago — *Collapse* provides a fresh take on traditional romantic comedy by spicing it up with contemporary dialogue and interstitial music. The play draws on an old form but simultaneously tries to subvert that form.

Well, almost. It's never quite clear whether Moore came up with her title before she wrote the play, or if the theme just emerged naturally. Whatever the case, she ultimately got seduced by the idea of wrapping things up neatly. *Collapse* starts out offbeat, and turns out surprisingly conventional.

Or maybe it's just apropos of a new trope in the theater world — that of playwrights staging works that are actually aspiring TV pilots. *Collapse* starts off with the perfect setup for a situation comedy. The skeleton of the Interstate 35W bridge looms behind a small flat in Minneapolis, where Hannah (**Carrie Paff**) is trying to iron out the kinks in her marriage, namely by getting pregnant. Her husband David (**Gabriel Marin**) has turned into something of an indolent, though clues in the script let on that it's probably a recent development. David pretends to be an alcoholic, for instance, but he only drinks beer — and when Hannah's back is turned, he pours it into a house plant.

Enter Susan (**Amy Resnick**), Hannah's annoying slacker sister, who barges in with her two large suitcases and an out-sized sense of *joie de vivre*. Resnick plays Susan as the perfect foil to stiff, stylish Hannah: One is an attorney, the other a drifter recently laid off from her job at a cable access channel. One is well-outfitted, the other rumpled. One speaks in social niceties; the other uses phrases like, "Hey, I'm open. I'm open to the flooow!" David retracts on an easy chair, clearly annoyed but also defenseless. And it only gets more complicated.

Show Details
Through March 6 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $10-$45. AuroraTheatre.org.

The show, directed by **Jessica Heidt**, is done very much in the style of a *Seinfeld* episode. Scenes are quick and often consist of a single dialogue during which characters gradually reveal things about themselves. The "reveal" seems to be another hallmark of contemporary theater: It's a way of structuring the story for maximal comic or dramatic effect. We find out in the second or third scene that David is suffering from PTSD and that Hannah had a miscarriage. And we'll later learn that "Ted, the Bulldog" (**Aldo Billingslea**), a sex addict who becomes Hannah's one-on-one spiritual guide, has an odd handicap that makes him rather benign. Most dialogues follow the form of a cross-examination or confession. They always have some kind of built-in tension — logically, David should hook up with Susan, and Hannah should get with Ted, though it doesn't quite work out that way. And, right at the climax, the lights always dim and that tell-tale steam bass line (or melodic jazz piano line) rears its ugly head.

The main selling point is the acting, which is absolutely phenomenal. Hopefully, Billingslea will resist being typecast as a nymphomaniac, because he does it extremely well in *Collapse*. Sitting at a cafe table with Hannah, he leans toward her and grins expectantly, unctuously forking a slab of apple pie. Somehow, he manages all those motions with his legs splayed in a near-physically impossible position: one kneecap pointed north, the other shoe south. Hannah responds by brushing back her loose-blond hair and slumping bashfully in her seat, which suddenly seems small and unwieldy. Resnick, for her part, has all the slacker mannerisms down, from her slumped shoulders to the way she sits with her knees drawn up. Marin is clearly the best actor of all. He's able to convey emotion not just through vocal range and body language, but with a mere flick of his eyes. In Bay Area theater he's pretty recognizable, but always able to melt into a character so well that you forget who you're watching.

Thus, he and Paff manage to nail an overly dramatic scene at the end, when they're both dangling from the bridge — literally. It's the moment when *Collapse* goes from being smartly contemporary to being the kind of comedy where things are neatly and artificially resolved. Still, these actors handle it capably. The last scene is unnecessary, but the penultimate one turns out fine. The bridge itself — designed by **Melpomene Katakalos** — is probably made of wood, but it looks like real steel. It's a spectral presence throughout, hanging atop the stage, dangling into Hannah and David's living room, and imposing on their daily lives. Eventually, the structural behemoth makes good on its metaphoric potential.

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Dunking With Doug Merlino

A multicultural youth basketball team inspired the UC Berkeley alum's new book.

The first time **Doug Merlino** visited his old friend Myran in jail, everyone assumed that Merlino was Myran's lawyer. They were wrong, but you can see where their misconception came from: Eloquent, obviously well-educated middle-class white guy shows up at the King County Correctional Facility to see an African-American guy who sold an undercover cop $40 worth of crack cocaine.

Visitors at the jail must fill out an official form identifying their relationships to the prisoners they wish to see. "I puzzle for a minute over what to put down," Merlino writes in his new book *The Hustle: One Team and Ten Lives in Black and White*. "I consider 'Basketball Teammate' but then decide against it, wondering how I would explain it if the guard asked me. 'Acquaintance' doesn't seem to capture it either. Finally, I write 'Friend.'"

Doug Merlino [illegible]

All three are true. As eighth graders in 1986, Merlino and Myran played on the same basketball team, an ambitious project that brought together white boys from elite private schools — Merlino attended upper-crust Lakeside — and African-American boys from the poverty-stricken central region of what Merlino remembers as a still highly segregated Seattle. An ex-hippie entrepreneur collaborated with a devoted Central Seattle coach to create the team, put it onto a traveling league, and tour the state.

"It was the Reagan era. Everyone was talking about welfare queens and early hip-hop and Magic Johnson," said Merlino, who will be at **Pegasus Books Downtown** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, February 10.

"For the white guys, that year was about learning about black Seattle. For the black kids, who all came from extremely poor backgrounds, it was about traveling and playing basketball and being seen by coaches.

"On the surface level at least, we came together, won the state championship, and had this great story to tell," Merlino continued. "We had a good time telling jokes about each other and becoming a good team. ... It was this total sports movie come to life. Everything about it seemed sort of charmed."

Although the experience helped some of the African-American players win private-school scholarships, for some the charm soon wore off. While visiting his parents after graduating from UC Berkeley's School of Journalism in 2004, Merlino saw a story in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* about a young man who had been shot in the head and partially dismembered as part of a drug deal gone wrong. It was one of his ex-teammates.

"He was a nice kid," said Merlino, who began reconnecting with as many former teammates as he could find. One was a dot-com millionaire. Another was a prosecutor. One was a Pentecostal preacher. More than one were selling drugs. One was Myran, whom Merlino visited in jail. The boys' fates were largely defined along color lines. "The contrasts quickly became very clear," Merlino said. 7:30 p.m., free. *PegasusBookstore.com*

— *Anneli Rufus*

LECTURES

Conference: "Managing California: Strategies for Fiscal Housekeeping" With a series of lectures about the past, present and future of California's budget. Thu., Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., free. [illegible] House, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

David Savellano: "Travel Sketching" The artist and architect discusses the basics of plein air sketching and watercolor as part of the El Cerrito Art Association's monthly meeting. Wed., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Ln., El Cerrito. 510-559-7000.

James Martin: "The Islands of San Francisco Bay: A Photographer's Delight" The photographer shares slides and stories from his work photographing San Francisco's most important geographic landmarks. Tue., Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Karen Tei Yamashita Speaking as part of Mills College's Contemporary Writers Series. Tue., Feb. 15, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Mills Hall Living Room, Mills College, Oakland. 510-430-2158. www.mills.edu.

[illegible] With Artistic Director Mark Streshinsky [illegible] the opera's newest production, [illegible] by cast members singing selected arias. Thu., Feb. 10, 12:15 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible]: "An Optimist's Tour of the Future" The writer and thinker speaks as part of KPFA Radio's speaker series. Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $12 in advance, $15 at the door. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

Panel Discussion: "Basketball and Race" Three basketball writers, [illegible] (of Sports Illustrated), [illegible] Keown (of ESPN the Magazine) and author Doug Merlino, discuss "reporting on the sport and its impact on race relations and society." Thu., Feb. 10, noon. UC Berkeley North Gate Library, 105 North Gate Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible]. journalism.berkeley.edu.

Panel Discussion with Joyce Carol Oates The novelist discusses her work with [illegible] and UC Berkeley English professors. Fri., Feb. 11, 12-2 p.m. Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler Hall, Berkeley.

Screening and Discussion: 2001: A Space Odyssey [illegible] Wed., Feb. [illegible], 7:30 p.m., donations accepted. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.net.

Screening and Discussion: Chisholm '72 Screening of the film about Shirley Chisholm's historic presidential bid, followed by a discussion. Thu., Feb. 10, 7 p.m., donations accepted. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. [illegible]

Symposium: Agyeya and the Politics of Hindi Literary Formations. Two-day celebration of the legacy of Hindi writer S.H. Vatsyayan 'Agyeya,' featuring a panel of lectures and other events. Visit SouthAsia.Berkeley.edu for full schedule. Feb. 11-12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free. 370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-3608.

"Lecture: 'The Islands of San Francisco Bay'" Marin-based photojournalist James Martin discusses the ecology and history of the Bay's 48 islands. Wed., Feb. 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m., free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Adam David Miller Reading and discussing his memoir, *Ticket to Exile*, and his book of poems, *The Sky Is A Page*. Sun., Feb. 13, 2-4 p.m., free. Mira Vista United Methodist Church, 7075 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito.

Alan [illegible] Signing and discussing *[illegible]*. Sun., Feb. 13, 3 p.m. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Albany Library Friends Book Group [illegible] the group, which

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PICKS

Penelope Scambly Schott

[illegible] poet **Penelope Scambly Schott** has won a Turning [illegible] Poetry Prize, an Orphic Prize and the Oregon Book Award for her book *A Is for Anne: Mistress Hutchinson Disturbs the Commonwealth*. Her other volumes include *The Pest Maiden*, *[illegible] Radar*, *A Little Ignorance*, *The Perfect Mother* and *Penelope: The Story of the Half-Scalped Woman*. **At Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Feb. 13, Schott reads from her new book *Crow Mercies*, which has become the first-ever Sarah Lantz Memorial Poetry Book Prize winner. 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *—Anneli Rufus*

Isadora Duncan Lecture

The fluid [illegible], and unmistakable [illegible] movements that Isadora Duncan brought to modern dance in the first decades of the 20th century — inspired by the movements that accompanied ancient rites — appear natural to us but were downright shocking in Duncan's time. She was a utopic aesthete, a fearless original, and an unapologetic intellectual. As part of the Brown Bag Speakers Forum, **Lois Flood** delivers a **brown-bag-lunch lecture** on Duncan's writings and dances at the **Albany Library** (1247 Marin Ave., Albany) on Monday, Feb. 14, 12:30 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org *—A.R.*

Katherine Wentworth Rinne

While most Europeans bathed little if at all during the 16th and 17th centuries, the Romans were frequently fully immersed. **At University Press Books** (2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Tuesday, Feb. 15, urban designer and historian **Katherine Wentworth Rinne** discusses her new book ***The Waters of Rome: Aqueducts, Fountains, and the Birth of the Baroque City***, a pioneering study of Renaissance-era Rome's water infrastructure, which bloomed and boomed, thanks to the efforts of both religious and civil authorities, when the city was in a state of decay. 6 p.m., free. UniversityPressBooks.com *—A.R.*

Mark Stevenson

Stand-up comedian, musician, and IT industry adviser **Mark Stevenson** had the shock of his life when he was forced without warning to confront his own mortality. This prompted the journey that resulted in his book ***An Optimist's Tour of the Future***. At the **First Congregational Church of Berkeley** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Tuesday, Feb. 15, Stevenson discusses that tour, which encompassed [illegible] farmers, a moody robot, and outer-space hospitality. The co-director of Britain's cultural learning consultancy Flow Associates, Stevenson is also an expert in prime-number cryptography. 7:30 p.m., $10-$15. BerkeleyArts.org *—A.R.*

Isadora Duncan.

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Oakland revolts based on "The American experience." Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Autobiography and Memoir Book Writers Group Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., no cover. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

David Dodson, Urban Books, and Oakland [illegible] Discussing their suspense thrillers. Sun., Feb. 13, 5 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Doug Morton Reading from his new book *The Puzzle: [illegible]*. Thu., Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320, PegasusBookstore.com.

Film Screening and Lecture: "[illegible] for the Separation of Corporation and State" Featuring a series of ten-minute talks from economists on [illegible] policy, followed by a screening of the documentary [illegible]: The Legacy of the [illegible], and a question and answer session. A fund-raiser for the Gulf Coast Fund, [illegible] and the Coastal Heritage Society of Louisiana. Thu., Feb. 10, 7 p.m. $10-$20 sliding scale. [illegible], 3201 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-452-3556, [illegible].

Joyce Carol Oates: "The Writer's (Secret) Life: Rejection, Woundedness, and Inspiration" The fabulous [illegible] writer speaks as part of the Avenali Lecture Series. Free tickets will be available at Sibley Auditorium beginning at 5 p.m. on the evening of the lecture. One ticket per person. Thu., Feb. 10, 5 p.m., free. Sibley Auditorium, Bechtel Engineering Center, Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible].

Linda Gray Sexton The writer, daughter of Poet Anne Sexton, reads from her new memoir *Half in Love: Surviving the Legacy of Suicide*. Thu., Feb. 10, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

[illegible] Suffron Reading from her new novel, *June's Daughters*. Tue., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Dream of the World/[illegible] Annual With [illegible]. Fourth and [illegible] Sunday of every month, 3:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Books, 3268 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible], [illegible].

Penelope Scambly Schott Reading from her novel *Crow Mercies*. Sun., Feb. 13, 4 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Pre-Valentine's Day Poetry Reading Featuring [illegible], Tim [illegible], Hugh Behm-Steinberg and [illegible]. With free refreshments. Sun., Feb. 13, 4-6 p.m., free. [illegible] Fine Art & Artifacts, 1747 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Amnesty International Monthly Meeting All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. [illegible], 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-[illegible], [illegible].

Estate Planning Seminar and Pros and Cons of Signing a Revocable Living Trust Led by [illegible] and [illegible], attorneys from the [illegible] Law Firm. Mon., Feb. 14, 6-6:30 p.m. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. 510-745-1401.

Food Stamp Program Third Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, [illegible].

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Free Book Exchange, 13020 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-1041.

SPOKEN WORD

Heart of the [illegible] Poetry Books [illegible] by [illegible] White. [illegible] Thursday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net.

Last Word Poetry Books Poetry showcase and open mic hosted by Dale Jensen, [illegible] G. Randy Fingland and Tim Donnelly. [illegible] Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Nefeli Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-841-6374.

Open Mic Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m., $3-$5 suggested donation. [illegible] Lounge, Lower Sproul Plaza, Berkeley. 510-643-[illegible].

Poetry [illegible] A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers. Hosted by poetry ensemble [illegible]. First and Third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-[illegible], WorldGroundCafe.com.

Poetry [illegible] 2011 Featuring performances by local youth [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 10, 4 p.m. Alameda County Administration Building, Supervisors' Chambers, 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

Oakland/Alameda Prose & Poetry Reading Poetry reading and open mic. Second Saturday of every month, 1-3 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

Thursday at [illegible] A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. [illegible]. Mediterranean Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Word Art Open-Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all other writers are invited to share their work. Arrive early to sign up. Second and Fourth Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. 510-569-0102, ZocaloCoffeehouse.com.

Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam open mic with poetry and spoken word for youth under 25. The event is free to the public. [illegible] Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. [illegible]. [illegible] Art Gallery, 350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-[illegible].

BODY&SOUL

Hearing Voices

Livermore psychic Irma Slage says she converses with the spirit world

Irma Slage.

Cleaning her house one day nearly thirty years ago, **Irma Slage** looked up to see her friend standing before her agitatedly saying, "Call my husband." Although Slage hadn't heard her friend enter the house. "I could see her as clearly as I can see my hand. It was her."

She called the friend's husband, who explained that the friend had just died. Slage believes she had been visited not by the woman herself but by her spirit. It was then that Slage had to admit that she had a rare gift.

Before that fateful afternoon, Slage had never discussed with anyone the frequent messages she received from the departed, "because it was so normal to me," she said. "It was part of my life. Just as I wouldn't go up to you and ask whether your stomach moves up and down when you breathe, I wouldn't have asked anyone back then whether they heard those voices in their heads. I thought everyone did."

Recognizing her unique skill, Slage began sharing it with everyone she knew. "I would go to their houses and give them messages from their loved ones — from those who were dead and those who were alive, even from departed pets. I wanted to help people. That's what I've always wanted."

Slage said she also receives messages through automatic writing, a technique she adopted after her mother's death. "I put a sheet of paper on my lap and turned on the TV so that my mind would be focused elsewhere," she said. "I told myself, 'This hand holding this pen can do anything it wants.' I felt it going around in loops, and finally when I looked down it had written, 'It's really me. Love, Mom.'"

These days, the Livermore psychic uses a computer keyboard for automatic writing. She also investigates haunted houses, helps police departments investigate homicides, and holds private sessions. "I hear voices very clearly and repeat what I hear word for word. Messages from the dead usually come across exactly the way these people spoke when they were alive."

At the **Union City Library** (34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City) on Saturday, February 12, she will discuss her books, *Psychic Encounters: A Guide to Having Your Own Spirit Contact* and *Phases of Life After Death*, which she said was dictated via automatic writing. "It was written by spirits who have passed on," Slage said. "When the spirit world talks, we have to listen. They tell us what's important. They give us lessons to follow."

And we can all hear them if we just try, she said. The door that seems to unlock itself, the special song that plays on the radio at exactly the right time — such things should be taken as signs. "I believe everybody is psychic. It's just a matter of extent. Everyone can draw, but if I drew a horse I would have to tell you it's a horse. We've all had psychic encounters, but most people don't realize that's what they are. I don't believe in the word 'coincidence.'" 1 p.m., free. IrmaSlage.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Eight Lessons in Eating for Health and Vitality Eight-week course teaches the core concepts of whole food nutrition and culinary arts. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through Feb. 23. $495. Bauman College, 933 Grayson St., Berkeley. 800-540-7040, BaumanCollege.org.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Sufferers and their supporters are invited to attend third Tuesday of every month. 12-2 p.m., free. 510-644-2073. Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

The Healthy Vegetarian: Nourishing Yourself Donna Morton discusses "ways to maximize the enjoyment of food that can help you make healthy choices in your diet and maximize appreciation." Sun., Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m., free. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, www.nyingma.org.

Vitality Fitness and Healthy for Older Adults Interactive program focused on techniques for improving memory led by [illegible] Sat., Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m. Free. Newark Library, 6300 Civic Terrace Ave., Newark. 510-795-2627.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Awaken the Senses Valentine's Love Affair Dinner Couple-oriented dinner, with [illegible], also featuring a [illegible] of aphrodisiacs with Lila [illegible]. Sat., Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m. $50. Mingo Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330, MingoCenter.org.

Elder a Guild A group for older people interested in creating a support system and exploring conscious aging. Second and Fourth Sunday of every month, 3:30-4 p.m., free. North Berkeley Books, Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Irma Slage: Psychic Encounters The psychic presents her guide to "having your own spirit contact." Sat., Feb. 12, 2 p.m. Free. Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City. 510-745-1400, ACLibrary.org.

Turn On Your Love Light Learn spells to help you attract the perfect mate. Sun., Feb. 13, 1-2:30 p.m., $20. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Imaging Fair Aho Including a raffle drawing and prizes. RSVP suggested, and 510-655-5600. Second Sundays of every month, 1-4 p.m. $10. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Retreat: "Kingdom Tibetan Buddhism" Led by Chagdud Khadro Rinpoche and Jim Valby. Feb. 12-13, $20-$50. Bondrolsang, 2140 Adeline St., the [illegible] Berkeley.

Welcoming Ceremonies for Jewish Babies Learn the various Jewish birth rituals from an interfaith perspective. Sun., Feb. 13, 9:15-10:30 a.m., free. Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-8575, templeisaiah.org.

Wild Goose Qigong Course Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Continues through March 15. $255. Energy Movement, 4342 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

YOGA & BODYWORK

"40-Day Challenge Saturdays, 8-11 a.m. Continues through March 19. $300. [illegible] Grand Lake, 3029 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland.

Community Yoga under [illegible] yoga for all ages and experience levels, led by Yumiko Albertsone. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Feb. 24. $16 per class or $80 for eight classes. Yoga in the Middle, 20211 Palo Ln., Castro Valley. 510-537-2584, YogaintheMiddle.com.

Kirtan Session With chants and musician Sean Fell. Second Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m., donations requested. Yoga Mandala, 2807 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-486-1988, YogaMandalaStudio.com.

Tibetan Yoga Workshop: Opening the Heart Workshop led by [illegible] and focusing on exercises [illegible] the flow of positive feeling in the area of the heart. Vegetarian buffet lunch and the breaks included in price of the workshop. Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., $40; discounts for students and couples available. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, www.nyingma.org.

Valentine's Day Yoga and Thai Massage Workshop Couples or friends, experience a workshop covering breath work, meditation, and other tension-relief techniques. Sun., Feb. 13, 4-6 p.m. $20 per person. Mingo Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330, MingoCenter.org.

Women in Transition: Climbing into Your Authentic Self Yoga, writing and meditation workshop designed to "give you the space and tools to ride the waves of change." Led by Suze Allen and Jnana Gowan. All levels welcome. Sat., Feb. 12, 1-5:30 p.m. $48-$75. Vara Healing Arts, 860 Talbot Ave., Albany. 510-910-0642, HealingArts.us.

Yoga for Larger Women With modified poses and vinyasas, instruction specifically tailored to larger women. Thursdays, 6-7:15 p.m. $10. Mingo Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1330, MingoCenter.org.

PICKS

Alan Senauke

Menopause Yoga

The change of life is a physical, emotional, mental and spiritual transformation that most women dread yet that Western culture avoids talking about. Make that journey a bit easier with "**Women in Transition: Climbing into Your Authentic Self**," a workshop led by writer **Suze Allen** and certified yoga instructor **Jnana Gowan** at **Vara Healing Arts** (860 Talbot Ave., Albany) on Saturday, Feb. 12. Blending yoga, journaling, deep relaxation, and guided meditation, the workshop envisions "the change" as a mythic journey: a time of fulfillment and spiritual enlightenment. 1 p.m., $48. 510-910-0642 or HealingArts.us. — *Anneli Rufus*

Engaged Buddhism

A collection of photographs, essays, and observations produced over the past few decades from troubled outposts all over the world, *The Bodhisattva's Embrace: Dispatches from Engaged Buddhism's Front Lines* is a tell-all on the long career of **Alan Senauke**, vice-abbot of the **Berkeley Zen Center**, where he lives with his wife and two children. At **Diesel Bookstore** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Feb. 13, Soto Zen priest Senauke discusses his life and his work and offers insights into the ways in which we can incorporate Buddhist precepts in modern urban life to fight injustice and help others. 3 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com — *A.R.*

Circulation Workshop

From the venae cavae to the arteries, to the aorta to the ventricles, around the body it goes. But to where? At the **Fremont Library** (2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont) on Tuesday, Feb. 15, a **heart-education program** lets participants "walk through" the various parts of the human heart while exploring circulation patterns that affect the entire body. Geared toward all ages and all members of the family, the event includes a talk, a story and several hands-on activities designed to improve knowledge of the body's most important organ. 7 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Hoopdance Class

Get retro and work those hips with the help of a hula hoop. Adaptable to almost any music genre, hoopdance is getting trendier every day. At the **Emeryville Veterans Memorial Hall** (4321 Salem St., Emeryville) on Tuesday, February 15, award-winning dancer, teacher and hoop maker **Nicole Wong** — founder of CherryHoops — teaches an introductory hoop-dancing workshop. Beginning with the fundamentals of hooping around the waist, the class also includes practice dancing and moves involving other parts of the body. Hoops are provided and available for sale. 6:30 p.m. $5. CherryHoops.com — *A.R.*

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AQUARIAN AGE

POWER PLAYS

For the week February 9-15, 2011

By Raffee Finn

Planetary interactions form daily life into a complex web of power plays this week, and while certain configurations pack an altruistic intention, other combinations less inclined toward idealism aren't the least bit interested in selfless aims. And these mixed celestial messages are certain to be confusing. As they say in New York, "Hey — we're dealing with power issues, here." Confrontations around who's in charge could include all sorts of stands for freedom and independence, personal as well as collective. The quest for dominance is likely to outweigh humanitarian concerns, but that doesn't mean compassionate efforts won't be effective. So when and where you can reach out to your fellow travelers and extend a helping hand, a little bit of kindness will go a long way.

Several interactions contribute to this week's central tableau. First, a Sun/Mars conjunction in Aquarius continues to arouse a freedom-fighting spirit. Expect increased struggle in all those regions of the world already experiencing violence. But also anticipate feeling combative urges on the personal front, even in areas you thought were pretty much immune to aggression. The good news is that Saturn continues to trine the Sun/Mars conjunction, providing the potential to turn hotheaded rhetoric into grounded change.

The ongoing Venus/Pluto conjunction continues to fan the flames of fanatic desire, and while the "heat" of this interaction is more traditionally understood as sexual heat, it could just as easily produce political heat. Venus, in addition to signifying love and beauty, also signifies values. Pluto represents power as well as politics, and when it shares the same space with Venus they engender uncompromising agendas. But that's not all. Jupiter squares both Venus and Pluto, and because Jupiter represents a global perspective, our current state of interconnectedness is undeniable. What happens in Egypt has a direct effect everywhere. A Jupiter/Pluto square, by the way, produces a large appetite for power. Be aware that this hunger drives petty despots as well as world leaders, and oppression is just as prevalent at home as it is abroad.

Last week, I promised I would try to explain the intricacies of the "new" zodiac story. In truth, no one knows the exact origins of Western astrology. It's an amalgam, and the prevailing assumption is that it's a system based on the position of the planets in the constellations that seem to encircle the ecliptic. But we forget that other cultures trace different constellations around the same celestial path. I often wonder how the constellations were first identified. Every time I stargaze I can't help but think, "What drugs were these ancient astronomers using when they each sketched so many pictures across the night sky?" On my best night I can only see the Big Dipper.

Arguments about precession and a thirteenth Sign are arguments about whether astrology is a valid system, i.e., does it work? That's the real question. And we all know the answer to that: sometimes. A better question might be: "Does astrology have value?" That's a question that can be applied cross-culturally to any astrological system that attempts to delineate a relationship between heaven and earth.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES It's a question of balancing confidence with humility and ambition with generosity. You may not find the perfect blend with your first try, but in time you will find the appropriate combination.

TAURUS There's no need to apologize for working hard — that's just the phase you're in right now. And because all things change, eventually you'll enter the vacation phase.

GEMINI Sometimes reticence and resistance have their own logic. Don't be dismayed by [illegible] opinions, yours or others', that won't budge no matter how much the facts support a new perspective.

CANCER Opportunities for financial improvement are still available, especially if you are willing to make the necessary adjustments in terms of how you spend your time and where you apply your effort.

LEO There's no need to fight just to be right. So if you find yourself arguing with someone you love and can't find your way out, take a deep breath and a step back.

VIRGO You're right. It is a lot of work, but it's all worth the effort. Continue to concentrate your efforts, and even though it might take time, eventually you'll be pleased with the fruit of your labor.

LIBRA The challenge is how to feel safe from the inside out, regardless of your financial situation or your living arrangement. Here's a hint: Acknowledge the truth of your heart.

SCORPIO Allow intense and thoughtful conversations with friends to stimulate a new approach to your financial situation. This is not about miracle solutions; it's about creating a healing process.

SAGITTARIUS Pay attention to the details of your daily life and you could discover valuable information previously overlooked, that will help you put a new plan in motion.

CAPRICORN You're experiencing an odd assortment of feelings. On one hand, your nest is disturbed; on the other, the disruption is exciting. The good news is that the excitement will override the discomfort.

AQUARIUS The best way to manage your agitation is to get in touch with what's bothering you. Then figure out healthy ways to remedy your situation.

PISCES Continue to do whatever it is you do to support and maintain a calm attitude, and you'll be in the best position to deflect outside influences that could disturb your internal equilibrium. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Raffee Finn

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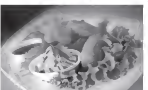
The fried sweet potato is Downtown Berkeley's newest best-kept secret.

Chris Duffey

THAI ME DOWN

Pin Toh works wonders with plebeian vegetables.

By Anneli Rufus

Few foods are humbler than the carrot. It's cheap. It grows easily and anywhere. It's plentiful. It's heart-rousingly bright, but so are highway cones. Even when crinkle-cut to party prettiness, as it appears in **Pin Toh**'s *pad see ewe*, *prik king*, and other Thai dishes, it's still a root.

That's why the tastiness of carrots in dish after dish at Pin Toh is a wonder. Between the teeth, Pin Toh's carrots sing a wake-up song of primordial vegetable vitamin rush, subterranean sweetness. Even in basic fare such as fried rice, this unapologetically plebian plant is coaxed in Pin Toh's kitchen to the perfect verge of crunchiness, that transcendental border between raw and cooked. It's a matter of heat, metal, and milliseconds. Talk about molecular gastronomy.

When was the last time you actively noticed carrots in a dish? When was the last time you ate the other ingredients first, just to save the carrots for last? Though at Pin Toh, it isn't just carrots. It's mushrooms gleaming dark and broccoli raining rhapsodically green from *rad naa*, a tangled ridge of smokily singed, chewily rough rice noodles swimming in a virtual bucketful of succulent brown gravy. It's ribbons of cabbage calming the tongue in fiery green *gang keow wan* curry thick with satiny-soft eggplant, jaunty bell pepper, seductive sweet basil, and dainty green peas. (When specifying the degree of spiciness you'd prefer in your order, keep in mind that Pin Toh's "medium" is lip-searingly hot for the average American mouth.)

Preparing vegetables so expertly that their freshness is the first thing diners notice about a dish is a rare skill. It's so rare, in fact, that even some of the savviest eaters among us don't realize how low our standards have fallen regarding cooked produce. A few bites into a Pin Toh meal, we sit bolt upright and ponder what we have been putting up with all this time: the overcooked, the undercooked, the overly al dente, and the sludge.

It's easy not to notice Pin Toh. Choosing a Thai restaurant is a crapshoot, because Thai restaurants are ubiquitous. In downtown Berkeley alone, Pin Toh has at least four competitors. It wasn't always like this. Forty years ago, before the Vietnam War introduced the wider world to Southeast Asia, the average Californian couldn't discern *pa-teek* from *pad thai*. But the culinary landscape has changed. What Cantonese restaurants were to mid-20th-century America, Thai restaurants are now.

And while most are serviceable — have you ever eaten in a bad Thai restaurant? Do they even exist? — they're largely interchangeable. The American public has come to expect and even welcome a certain reassuring sameness in their flavors, menus, and decor. And while Pin Toh sports the obligatory potted curlicue "lucky bamboo" and serves the classics, from satay to *tom kha* to Thai iced tea, diversions from cliché quickly emerge. A chic black ceiling meets dark walls, bisected all the way around, above head level, by a thin line of lime-green light beaming upward. This lizardy glow, along with turquoise-vinyl chrome-dinette-style chairs and throbbing music — No Doubt's "Don't Speak," Donovan's "Sunshine Superman" — further lend this place the moody mien of a spacecraft doubling as a dance club even in daytime.

Although *pho* is Vietnamese, it's a specialty here, served in helmet-size bowls that are engagingly difficult to drain in a single sitting. How many woes can noodle soup soothe? Along with a huge white skein of the requisite rice vermicelli, Pin Toh offers fifteen different component combinations, from the classic steak-and-tendon, steak-and-tripe, and brisket-and-flank to a seafood version featuring prawns, scallops, calamari, and red snapper. A vegetarian version is made with vegetable broth instead of the standard chicken broth. (A 37-item vegetarian menu augments the restaurant's regular one.)

A far cry from those sparse and haphazard vegetarian versions of classic dishes served in too many restaurants, Pin Toh's veggie *pho* is brimful with breathtakingly fresh produce and two kinds of tofu: fluffy fresh and densely pressed. On a convenient side plate await huge helpings of raw bean sprouts, cilantro, basil, and jalapeño pepper to add as you wish. Eating this *pho* is like embarking on a multicourse meal in one go: Crisp salad at first, then soup; then as its many flavors merge and deepen, it becomes a noodle entrée, and finally a soft and hearty stew.

Rice vermicelli reappears in fresh spring rolls, which comprise delicately chewy translucent wrappers stuffed to the size of eyeglass cases with noodles, bean sprouts, mint, lettuce, and thumb-size prawns. Served with an irresistibly rich coconut-peanut dipping sauce, it embodies yet again the unpretentiousness and unrelenting sophistication of Southeast Asian cooking, that fork-happy travelogue of hot jungle and sea, a tropical alchemy of hot and sweet, crunchy and soft, laughably simple and sagely complex.

Thick rice noodles play a role as warmly filling *pad kee mow*, aka "drunken noodle," paired with chili, garlic, sweet skinless tomatoes, basil, and borderline-tough strips of beef.

Standing firm alongside all these bold flavors and textures is the strongest Thai iced tea you might ever taste: Flooding the bloodstream with an almost chocolatey astringency, a single sip inspires sudden confidence.

Easily overlooked upon a scan of the appetizer list, **Pin Toh**'s dauntingly lumpen-sounding "fried sweet potato" is Downtown Berkeley's newest best-kept secret. Batter-fried like fish and chips, and soul-satisfying in the way that only tubers immersed in boiling oil can be, these golden discs are astoundingly light. They're also subtly sweet, naturally so, in the way we would worship sweetness were our palates not dumbed-down by daily deluges of sugar. Served with hot-sweet sauce and piquant cucumber salad, here again are humble roots made heavenly.

A warning, though: The perfection of Pin Toh's vegetables will not survive the microwave. Dine at the restaurant, or take food home and eat it straightaway; reheating it does not merely insult that perfection, but annihilates it. This is only fair. Some things, thank God, aren't made to last. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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Thai iced tea	$2

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food writers. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25. $$$—$25-$50. $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332 (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic/Exotic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

The [illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-3311 (Tapas/Small Plates) $

La [illegible] 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9111 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Table 2315 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-864-6129 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

The New Zealander 1400 Webster St., Alameda, 510-769-6555 (Brewpub/English/Irish/Pub/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Waffle [illegible] 1501 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-0136 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1813 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-8090 (Mexican) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] House 2402 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3336 (Deli) $

Scolari's Good Eats 1303 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-2400 (American/Italian/Eclectic Local) $$

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

Sushi King 1640 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-8886 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-714[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Café Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5001 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 1369 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-0000 (Breakfast/Brunch/Californian/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Cape Cod 1150 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-3366 (Seafood) $$

[illegible] Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-581-2255 (Chinese) $-$$

Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1185 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-2433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 1581A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-9995 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Berkeley/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1445 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-2220 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Organic [illegible] 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1880 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

Kathmandu 1400 [illegible] Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222 (Tibetan) $$

[illegible] 1315 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-1877 (Chinese) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838, 510-568-7033 (office) (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Lanesplitter Pizza to Go 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-8375 (Pizza)

[illegible] 1225 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-549-0305 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1255 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1501 Oak View Ave., Kensington, 510-515-1350 (French/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1111 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-4[illegible] (French) $$

[illegible] 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2[illegible] (Chinese) $$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2376 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Cambodian) $$

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1137 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8043 (Korean) $$

[illegible] Taqueria 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8585 (Mexican) $

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

Lili Hawaiian Barbecue 5881 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, 925-634-5288 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Mac's Old House 3100 E. 18th St., Antioch, 925-753-9906 (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] Thai Berkeley 1650 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8403 (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1750 (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

[illegible] Lounge 2129 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3326 (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza) $$

[illegible] House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8389 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 1642 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7855 (California Cuisine/Family/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 2051 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8018 (Brazilian/Deli/South American) $

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5553 (Tibetan) $-$$

Caffe Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$-$$$

La [illegible] 2164 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8888 (Mexican) $

Chick-O-Pea's 1970 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8890 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] 2370 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-0206 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

The [illegible] 2415 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-643-0329 (Eclectic/Exotic) $

[illegible] Deli 2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9544 (Deli) $

eVe 1960 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-0735 (American)

Five 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-225-6055 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Center [illegible] at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Restaurant 2420 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 (Italian) $$

[illegible] 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-548-5281 (Deli) $

Henry's Publick House & Grille 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8200 (California Cuisine) $$

Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490 (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

Ippuku 2130 Center St., Berkeley, 510-665-1969 (Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

[illegible] 2130 [illegible] St., Berkeley, [illegible] (American/Barbecue) $$

Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5858 (Southeast Asian) $-$$

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza/Bars & Clubs) $$

Long Life Veggie House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Smokehouse 2130 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0628 (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] Lounge 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American) $

The Mayflower 1540 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0188 (Chinese) $

[illegible] International Sports Cafe 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1450 (American/Brewpub) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 2588 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3851 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164 (American/Diner) $

Pie in the Sky 2111 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-4[illegible] (Pizza) $

[illegible] 31 Shattuck Sq., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian/[illegible]) $

[illegible] 2942 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1325 (Central American) $-$$

[illegible] 1933 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2148 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Pomegranate 1565 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-5567 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0607 (Japanese/Sushi) $

Raw Energy 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464 (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

San Francisco Soup Company 2512 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

The [illegible] Cafe 2115 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-845-0506 (American) $$

[illegible] Cafe 2554 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0419 (Breakfast/Brunch, Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 1960 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-3663 (American) $-$$

Sunny Side Cafe 2136 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-845-7909 (American/California Cuisine, Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4880 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Thai Delight Cuisine 1500 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0011 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Top Dog 2162 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe 2480-2488 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0906 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2311 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-5850 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/Barbecue/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

[illegible] 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-5800 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Zabu Zabu 1919 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-848-9228 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

[illegible] 1515 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-898-1500 (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1674 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] Cafe 1649 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4345 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Vegan) $-$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] North Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 1599 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4582 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Californian/Berkeley/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-548-

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510-665-[illegible]

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

The Bread Project Cafe

1701 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-45[illegible]. Located in the Berkeley Adult School's hangar-like and mostly empty multipurpose room, this inspiring little nonprofit serves bargain-priced breakfasts and lunches along with soup, pizza, and a wide variety of baked goods — made by in-person trainees, including addicts, the formerly homeless, and others who once found themselves down and out. You can't beat the thick-crusted personal pizza, a complete meal topped with meat and/or pickled red onion and hefty goat-cheese chunks. And the tasty baked goods run the gamut from stollen to Anzac cookies to rye bread. $

Addie's Pizza Pie

[illegible], Berkeley, 510-547-1100. Imaginative thin-crust California-style pies star at this Berkeley pizza parlor, housed in an impressive (if impersonal) circa 1906 bank building. The Bistro (mushrooms, fontina, and thyme) is rich and luscious; the Derby (broccolini, ricotta, and lemon zest) is sprightly and refreshing; and the seasonal Harvest just might feature butternut squash, sage, and goat cheese. Salads include a lush, delectable warm spinach and mushroom, and there's a frozen custard for dessert. Impressive beer list. $$

Enoteca Molinari

5474 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-4078. This friendly, classy Rockridge wine bar serves up a selection of rustic Italian snacks along with [illegible] creamy chickpea fries, three kinds of crostini, salumi and cheese, a hearty Tuscan white bean soup, polenta baked with mushroom ragu. There are also four imaginative varieties of homemade pasta daily (get the rigatoni with mint and swordfish). Yummy panna cotta for dessert, cozy ambience; stellar all-Italian wine list. $$

Pizza Plaza

[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1432. With its bright lights, Shattuck Avenue-facing storefront, and jangly retro-rock radio, fully meatless Pizza Plaza is not elegant. It's not even homey, but fun touches such as a vintage Thomas Brothers map of the greater East Bay lend this roomy space a funkiness that can't be faked. A longtime vegetarian himself, Sudanese owner Amin Ahmed devised a vegan and vegetarian menu that makes this polka-dotted hole in the wall a hotspot on the untraditional meat-avoidant grapevine. Specialty pizzas make life easy; design-your-own custom pizzas feature such exotic options as ginger, sweet potatoes, kidney beans, and peas. Vegan desserts include doughnuts, cheesecake, and a fabulously rich chocolate cake. Ahmed delivers from Albany to Jack London Square, but he does all deliveries himself, so you might find yourself waiting a while. $$

Mount Everest Restaurant

2598 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3951. Friendly neighborhood hangout serves a few Nepali specialties as well as several Indian standards, some of them delectable, others so-so. Opt for the hot, juicy momos, the crunchy samosas, the smoky chicken chhoila, the richly spiced cauliflower-potato aloo gobi, and bhatura, a pillowy fried bread served with spicy garbanzos. The honey-drenched [illegible] makes a fine dessert. Brief beer and wine list, uninspiring high-ceilinged industrial storefront setting. $$

Sunny Side Cafe

2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-9900. Helming the kitchen is locally trained, self-described "Eco-Chef" Aaron French, who traveled the world studying fragile ecosystems before becoming a full-time chef at the original Sunny Side on Solano Avenue. The Berkeley restaurant opened in 2009, offering breakfast, brunch, and lunch with an eye to seasonality and sustainability. Among a wide range of sandwiches, egg dishes, and other daytime-dining classics, spotlights include crispy-outside house frites and many versions of eggs Benedict, topped with house-made Hollandaise. French's signature dish is the Alameda: [illegible] sandwiched between two French-toast slices, topped with two eggs, Hollandaise, and a balsamic reduction. $$

(American)

The Olive Leaf 1513 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-7000 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Express 1822 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-5331 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

Northside Cafe 1878 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3483 (American) $

Philz Coffee 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Coffeehouses) $

[illegible] 1581 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-4911 (Mexican) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Retail/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 1886 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5389 (American) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

La [illegible] 2918 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Crixa Cakes 2748 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-548-0421 (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $$

[illegible] 2566 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0161 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] Berkeley Tuesday Farmer's Market, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

Homemade Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Desserts/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Kiraku 2190 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-548-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 2826 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Mexican/[illegible]/Pizza/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7367 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Indian Express 2440 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-841-0133 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Norikonoko 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1274 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Paragon Bar & Cafe 43 Claremont Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8510 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

[illegible] 2918 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1117 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 3215 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3567 (American) $

Summer Kitchen Bake Shop 2944 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-8530 (American/Bakery/Sandwiches/Salads) $$

Advance of Africa 3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-9984 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley, 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

Cafe Aquarius 1298 65th St., Emeryville, 510-655-2800 (Breakfast/Brunch/[illegible]/Coffeehouses)

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Coffeehouses/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe M 1791 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-528-4420 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable/Coffeehouses) $$-$$$

Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-11[illegible] (Bakery/Mexican) $

Cocina [illegible] 1327 [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-923-0492 (Mexican) $

Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-3552 (American/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8900 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Fellini 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5250 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] Island Cafe 2957 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-4988 (Caribbean) $

[illegible] 1881 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1485 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 4430 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 ([illegible] & Home Furnishings) $

India Sweets and Spices 864 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1200 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3890 (Indian/Pakistani/Nepali/Halal) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 1106 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Nepali/Halal) $

KC's Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1140 (Barbecue) $-$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Miyozen 1141 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0311 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 2540 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Pizza/Salads) $$

Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2077 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-3977 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 830 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7480 (Indian/Organic/Sweets [illegible]) $$-$$$

Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 5831 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-9236 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Sea Breeze Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-8802 (Deli/Seafood) $

Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $$$

Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Trader Vic's 9 Anchor Dr., Emeryville, 510-653-3400 (Asian Fusion/American/Caribbean/Hawaiian/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

Vik's 2390 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-4432 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Zut! 1820 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-0444 (Greek/Turkish/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Moroccan/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza/Spanish) $$$

CONCORD MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible] 4315 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-680-2718 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

El [illegible] Bakery, [illegible] 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-[illegible] (American/[illegible]) $-$$

El [illegible] 2200 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 345 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-8454 (Greek/Turkish) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 550 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-691-3191 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 2301 [illegible] Pass Rd., Concord, 925-689-9110 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Cucina Mexicana 210 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 [illegible] Blvd., [illegible], 925-944-0480 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Los Rancheros Market 1091 [illegible] Dr., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria El Salero 1205 Oak Grove Rd., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] Ristorante 7151 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$

[illegible] Asian Bistro 10180 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-9338 (Chinese/Asian [illegible]) $

The [illegible] 236 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4822 (Deli/German/Austrian/Coffeehouses) $

[illegible] 3890 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-8019 (Central American) $

[illegible] Ramen 10544-10546 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-1070 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8386 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 6015 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8910 (Steak House) $$-$$$

Marylin's Homemade Delights 1972 Sycamore Ave., Suite F, Hercules, 510-245-[illegible] (Desserts) $

Pho Hoa Thai 12060 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] Gourmet delivery only, El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/Pizza) $$

Ristorante San [illegible] 1560 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5627 (Italian) $$

Saiboong Thai 3288 Pierce St. #D11L, Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Thai Restaurant 13030 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-9942 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Tacos Los Primos Parking lot of 550 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $

Taqueria La Bamba 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-236-2000 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 14625 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-235-1583 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] Thai 819 [illegible] Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] Seafood [illegible] 10550 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-8847 (Chinese/[illegible]) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1908 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-324-8868 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Cafe [illegible] 31[illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-9168 (Chinese) $

Cafe [illegible] Express 34420-G Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 43020 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-1417 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Grill 36158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-797-7760 (Chinese/[illegible]

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Beer Bust

In the East Bay, SF Beer Week will unveil new brews and feature pairings with chocolate and cheeses.

What started as a humble twelve-ounce can has bubbled over the brim and flooded the world — and even **SF Beer Week** can no longer contain the excitement generated by American craft beer. The celebration, which runs February 11-20, will be spilling into all corners of the Bay Area this year while soaking the bars, pubs, and breweries of the East Bay with some of most anticipated of events — and some of the most commendable beers in the world.

For day one, pick your kickoff — perhaps at **The Englander** in San Leandro where ten beers from **Drake's Brewing Company** will be served on tap. Or venture east to the **Hop Yard American Ale House and Grill** in Pleasanton, where the 31 taps will be pouring Bay Area-made brews all week.

On Saturday, February 12, confirm, debunk, or debate the current rumor that **Lagunitas Brewing Company** has made the bitterest beer on Earth when the beast goes on tap along with sixty other tongue-scorchers at **The Bistro**'s annual **Double IPA Festival**. That same evening, **Solano Cellars** in Albany, always up to something boozy with fermented things, will host a **"Transatlantic Beer Flights"** guided tasting. For $15, participants will develop a brisk buzz while tasting the differences that the Atlantic Ocean has carved between American and European interpretations of the same beer styles.

Also on February 12, **Triple Rock** will put on tap a boozy imperial stout called **Keyser Sose** that spent several months locked in a bourbon barrel. Drinkers will also get to sample a freshly released version that the brewers have warned could weigh in at 15 percent alcohol or more. But Beer Week's beers get even bigger, and two of the biggest in America are coming to **Beer Revolution** on February 13 when **Dogfish Head Craft Ales** of Delaware unleashes its **Olde School Barleywine** and **World Wide Stout** — the latter an 18 percent head-spinner. In the same venue on the same evening, **Anchor Brewing Company** reps will serve their more modest and yet still manly barleywine, **Old Foghorn**, and guide guests through a vertical tasting of the **Potrero Hill** brewery's annual Christmas ale.

Oakland's **Commonwealth Cafe and Pub** will be pairing British beers with British cheeses on February 13. On the 15th, **Wine Thieves** in Lafayette will echo the theme when it pairs strong beers with smelly cheeses. On February 16 at **The Churchward Pub**, our homegrown **Bison Brewing Company's Bourbon Barrel Aged Imperial Brown** will make its inaugural voyage down the public gullet. On the 19th, the **2nd Annual Chocolate and Beer Festival Fundraiser** pairs local suds to chocolate and fudge at the **Craneway Pavilion** in Richmond.

From start to finish, 315 beer-heavy events will come and go. Visit SFBeerWeek.org, set your course, and pace yourself. After all, SF Beer Week is ten days long.

— Alastair Bland

Editor's Note: Last Call is our new weekly column devoted to alcohol of all varieties. Wine writer Jody [illegible] will continue to contribute in these pages.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

R&C

dian/Pakistani) $-$$
Massimo's 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$
Mirchi Cafe @ Mezban Pizza 40900 Fremont Blvd. ..., Fremont, 510-623-8500 (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $
Rich & Mein Hot Pot Restaurant 6066 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-797-3888 (Chinese) $$
Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$
Udupi Palace 5988 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8488 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

Grand Taipei 25036 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-1133 (Chinese) $$
Kim Tong Mission Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22385 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-880-7707 (Barbecue/Korean) $$
The Hayward Beach 22577 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-537-5620 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$
Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20650 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley 510-889-8888 (Chinese) $
JB's Restaurant and Pies 2837 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-886-8837 (Diner) $
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27303 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-732-8884 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
La Piñata 2999 Mission St., San Leandro, 510-352-8008 (Mexican) $$
La Piñata 904 Tenn St., Hayward, 510-538-3907 (Mexican) $$
Manila Garden 29500B Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-670-0727 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$
The Hawaiian Omelet 305 B St., Hayward, 510-538-9711 (American/Diner) $
Buonanotte 742 B St., Hayward, 510-581-5744 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$
Olympus Mezze Restaurant 1207 Davis St., San Leandro, 510-568-4795 (Greek) $-$$$
Pot Pie Paradise 3522 Arden Rd., Hayward 510-780-6984 (American) $
Sam's Super Burger 15401 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-278-9139 (American/Diner) $
Sweet Hands Aurrera Restaurant 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-8600 (Caribbean) $$
Sushi Kushi 1421 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-3745 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Vo's Restaurant 217 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-351-6600 (Vietnamese) $$

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$
Pizza Antica 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-299-0500 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$
Metro 3524 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-6729 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] House Cafe [illegible] School St., Moraga 925-376-5927 (American) $-$$
Ristorante Amoroma 350 Park St., Moraga 925-377-7897 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Taqueria El Balazo 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-0700 (Mexican) $
Vino 3538 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-1338 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Caffe Verbena 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of KPI Building, Oakland, 510-465-9300 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$
Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-9516 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Chef Lau's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $
Chop Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2467 (Burgers/Sandwiches/Breakfast/Brunch/American) $$
Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 719 Washington St., Oakland 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $-$$
[illegible] 337 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-8823 (Chinese) $
Encuentro 202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-0463 (Wine Bar/Tapas/Small Plates/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Fremont, Market Bistro 915 Clay St., Oakland 510-238-8780 (Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable/Mexican) $$
Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-286-0100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206 (Peruvian/South American) $$$
Golden Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant 1301 Franklin St., Oakland 510-893-0383 (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $
Gourmet Delight Seafood Restaurant 701 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-2882 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

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Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 1748 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-444-2626 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] 567 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-2994 (Lebanese/Sushi) $ $$$

Lake Chalet 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253 (California Cuisine/American/Seafood/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Seafood) $$$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $ $$

Levende East 827 Washington St., Oakland 510-835-5585 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 481 9th St., Oakland 510-835-4343 (Eclectic/Exotic/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable/Bars & Clubs) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway Oakland, 510-451-4677 (Burgers/California Cuisine/French/Bars & Clubs) $$-$$$

Miss Pearl's Jam House One Broadway Oakland, 510-444-7171 (Caribbean) $$$

Mua 2442 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-1100 (American/Asian Fusion/Tacos/Small Plates/Bars & Clubs/Late Night) $$ $$$

[illegible] 1156 3rd St., Oakland, 510-615-6258 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 2442 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-238-8025 (French/Italian/American) $$$

[illegible] 1412 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-4466 (Filipino) $

Oyster Reef 100 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland 510-836-1880 (Seafood) $$$

Ozumo Oakland 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland 510-286-9866 (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$$

Pican 2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000 (Southern/Soul Food/American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 724 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-835-8373 (Vietnamese) $

Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8866 (Chinese) $$$

[illegible] 400 15th St., Oakland, 510-454-8424 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Soup Company 1301 Clay St., Oakland 510-763-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Seafood) $

[illegible] 328 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-7199 (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland 510-465-6878 (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane 507 Broadway, Oakland, 510-832-4310 (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Souley Vegan 301 Broadway Oakland, 510-922-1615 (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-250-0827 (California Cuisine) $$

Spices 3 369 12th St. Oakland 510-625-8886 (Chinese) $$

[illegible] 384 9th St., Oakland 510-836-8973 (Chinese) $

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St., Oakland 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Tay Ho 344 11th St., Oakland, 510-836-8588 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Top Dog 499 15th St. Suite 17, Oakland, 510-835-3600 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Soul Food) $

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi/Bars & Clubs/Performance Venues) $$$

Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2010 (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Full [illegible] 3718 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2281 (American/Diner) $

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 1228 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8486 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 E. 12th St., Oakland 510-465-7188 (Mexican/Sports Bars) $$

Mariscos La Costa 3625 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-8586 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 631 International Blvd., Oakland 510-465-0030 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

El Ojo de Agua 3132 E. 12th St., Oakland (Mexican) $

Old Weang Ping Village 4011 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland 510-430-8771 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 3022 International Blvd. Oakland 510-536-0909 (Mexican) $-$$

Phnom Penh House 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-482-8989 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Ao Sen 1139 International Blvd Oakland 510-534-6601 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 2264 International Blvd., Oakland 510-434-9180 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 720 International Blvd., Oakland 510-452-8884 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 3349 Foothill Blvd. Oakland 510-436-3314 (Central American) $

[illegible] Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3375 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland, 510-530-8887 (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-5208 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3409 International Blvd. Oakland 510-532-7105 (Mexican) $

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César Latino 4039 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-985-1200 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 4228 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3334 (French) $$

[illegible] Sushi 832 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-834-7622 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Commis 3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902 (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

[illegible] 3308 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-451-0511 (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-652-1912 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 3601 Grand Ave. Oakland (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Gregoire 4001B Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

[illegible] 2089 Antioch Ct., Oakland 510-339-3721 (American) $

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave. Oakland 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Lanesplitter Pizza & Pub 590 Lake Park Ave. Oakland 510-893-4001 (Pizza) $

Lo Coco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] 4201 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-658-1222 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

[illegible] 3417 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-1580 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$

[illegible] Sushi 3260 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-465-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 3417 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-268-3847 (Steak House) $$$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-8320 (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-653-2444 (Caribbean) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2500 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Bars & Clubs) $$

[illegible] 4027 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3858 (California Cuisine/Italian/Greek/Turkish) $$$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Lake Anza [illegible] Tilden Park Roads, Berkeley 510-524-2101 (Pasta/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/Delis/Bakeries/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 4801 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-655-6180 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Marica 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5356 College Ave., Oakland 510-595-4950 (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 5214 College Ave., Oakland 510-652-8187 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6048 College Ave. Oakland 510-655-3298 (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 6019 Claremont Ave., Oakland 510-655-6588 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave. Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 6211 Shattuck Ave. Oakland 510-428-1433 (Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave. Oakland 510-654-1001 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] Bangkok Eatery 5401 College Ave Oakland 510-655-8880 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1823 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Top Dog 5100 Broadway Oakland 510-601-1157 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave. Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] 2775 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-5927 (Korean) $$

Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-450-0522 (Mexican) $$$

Genova Delicatessen and Ravioli Factory 5095 Telegraph Ave. Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401 (Deli, Italian) $

[illegible] 3102 Broadway Ave., Oakland 510-658-2988 (Korean) $$

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-595-0901 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

La [illegible] 5200 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0226 (Mexican) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Art Bakeries) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-7603 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bars) $-$$

The [illegible] 4820 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-655-5601 (California Cuisine/Coffeehouses) $$

Ohgane Korean Restaurant 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-594-8300 (Korean) $$-$$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-658-9040 (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 4925 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-654-5504 (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-653-3366 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 4721 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-834-5151 (Korean) $$

Seoul Gom Tang 3801 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-597-9988 (Korean) $

[illegible] 5179 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-655-6300 (American/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $$$

Yuyu Za Zang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-2588 (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville, 925-552-0505 (Steak House) $$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Oakland Bacchus Wine Club Tasting Meet local vintners and taste their wines, along with a seasonal dinner. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. $20. Pontes Bacchus Wine Club Studio, 2017 Seventh St. Suite A, Berkeley.

[illegible] Green Drinks Monthly gathering for people involved in sustainability. Topics include green business, architecture, design, and clean energy. Third Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8 p.m. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

***Recipe for Romance: Valentine's Day Dinner** Five-course prix-fixe dinner with a glass of champagne. Mon., Feb. 14, 5-10 p.m. $65. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord. 925-825-7700.

Romance, Wine and Chocolate Featuring 5 varieties of [illegible] and wine pairings. Sun., Feb. 13, 1-4 p.m. $30-$35. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2305. WenteVineyards.com.

Stroll of the Vine With wine and light hors d'oeuvres. Fri., Feb. 11, 4-8 p.m. $8 advance, $10 at the door. [illegible] Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill. 925-798-8788.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Gather Four-course prix fixe dinner with a vegan/vegetarian option. Mon., Feb. 14. $70. Gather, 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley. 510-809-0400. GatherRestaurant.com.

Valentine's Day Dinner at Ozumo Seven-course prix fixe dinner with chocolate sparkling wine. Mon., Feb. 14, 5-10 p.m., $130 per couple. Ozumo Oakland, 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. [illegible] Haight Ave., Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. Bayfaircenter.com.

Berkeley [illegible] With organic produce, sustainable [illegible], a food court, and performances by local musicians. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Berkeley Adult School, 1701 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Concord Farmers' Market With farmers selling locally-grown fruits, vegetables and nuts. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464.

Emeryville Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, dairy, prepared foods, wine and more. Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Market Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-1934. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-6250. Ci.berkeley.ca.us/recreation/francesalbrier.

Grand Lake Oakland Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakepark, Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/[illegible].

Irvington Fremont Market With farmers selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the main entrance to the medical center. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Permanente, 3600 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With 5 varieties of fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, gluten-free pasta, and seasonal specialties. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Farmers' Market Spearheaded and maintained by Oakland Food Connection. With certified organic produce from K&P Square Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth called the People Love Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become involved please contact Ted at ted@oaklandfoodconnection.org, or call 510-482-1888. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market Farmers, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and kids' activities. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 101 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market Vendors sell seasonal produce, eggs, crafts, and apparel. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fresh, locally grown fruit, flowers, eggs, and Hmong produce. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, flowers, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5050. Ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer Alameda produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, Bolinas flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market With farmers selling fresh Alameda produce and seafood, plus a basketball court. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park, Smith & Watkins St., Union City. ■

PICK

Fabulous Fungi

From [illegible] to [illegible], many mushrooms growing wild throughout the East Bay are indeed edible. But identifying them — and discerning the delicious from the deadly — requires a lot of expertise. Get a head start at **Ardenwood Historic Farm** (34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont) on Sunday, Feb. 13, with a class called **"Fabulous Fungi."** Led by **Trent Pearce**, the class begins with a lesson on grocery-store mushrooms, and continues with a stroll through the farm to determine whether any edible mushrooms are currently growing wild. 2 p.m., free with admission. EBParks.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

R&C

[illegible] Grill 3081-A [illegible] Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-4444 (Kabobs) $

Livermore's [illegible] Steak Meat Co. 225-B [illegible] Plaza, [illegible] 925-838-5686. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Bombay Indian Fusion 400 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-362-4000. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

McNamara's Steak & Chop House 7400 San Ramon Rd., Dublin. 925-833-0995. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

The [illegible] 909 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-299-8865 (Steak American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] Steak & Restaurant 410 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville. 925-838-7011 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Red [illegible] Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-734-0307 (American/Barbecue) $$

Red [illegible] Cafe 4920 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. 925-828-9000 (Barbecue) $

[illegible] 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San [illegible] 925-211-3888 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Trattoria 800 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon. 925-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

Taqueria El Balcon 230 [illegible] Pl., San Ramon. 925-328-2531. (Mexican) $

Taqueria El [illegible] 430 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Danville. 925-838-8421 (Mexican)

Taqueria El Balcon 4515 Rosewood Drive #900, Pleasanton. 925-734-8380. (Mexican) $

Taqueria El Balcon 5331 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-416-1300. (Mexican) $

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. 925-449-7000. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

[illegible] Steak 115 [illegible] Plaza, [illegible] 925-855-9000. (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-964-1818. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] Wine 3110 Crow Canyon Pl. Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Bonomo's Si Mangia Vino 1219 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. 925-938-2426 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] Bowl 1501 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-287-5188 (Chinese) $$

The Original [illegible] 1455 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7651 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-947-6105 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

The [illegible] 1535 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-937-7207 (Hawaiian) $$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek. 925-943-5666. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-944-FISH (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$ ●

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SUPER AWESOME!

Insurance-agent conventioneers (*Cedar Rapids*) and Roman legionnaires (*The Eagle*) on a rampage

By Kelly Vance

When you give a movie a title like ***Cedar Rapids***, you open up an entire mountain range of assumptions based on the name alone. Or, more appropriately, a cornfield of assumptions. Or a grassy prairie.

For instance, if filmmaker **Miguel Arteta** were to make a comedy about an innocent, gullible, small-town insurance agent who gets into unexpected trouble at a convention, he might call it *The Stooge* or *The Jerk*, or *Mr. Lippe Goes to Town*. Never mind that those titles have already more or less been used before — we'd know immediately what we were up against.

But by choosing *Cedar Rapids*, director Arteta and screenwriter **Phil Johnston** suggest something more ambivalent and ambitious. The simple place-name title is too sweeping. Sounds pretentious and all-knowing. At first we fear this might be another *Grand Canyon*-style survey of the hopelessness of modern life in the United States.

After calming down, we realize *Cedar Rapids* belongs in that lengthy, impersonal list of films that have used Midwestern locations in their titles: *Fargo*, *Dodge City*, *Wichita*, *Bloomington*, *Kansas City*, *Chicago*, *Sioux City*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, etc. Not knowing much about the movie, we could expect anything from a dour social-problem pic about deserted main streets, abandoned farms and factories, Wal-Marts, and meth labs — one possible vision of today's Midwest — to the old-fashioned, corny-but-reliable view of Flyover Land as a place populated by well-meaning but befuddled yokels. *Cedar Rapids* is the latter kind.

Cedar Rapids.

Yokels don't come much more well-meaning and befuddled than Tim Lippe (played by **Ed Helms**), a very junior insurance salesman at Brown Star Insurance in Brown Valley, Wisconsin. Mild-faced Tim, who favors patterned sweaters and sensible slacks, seems to have absorbed the Insurance Agent's Handbook along with his earnest good-naturedness and eagerness to please. So what if bachelor Tim has a little sex thing going with his former high-school teacher, Macy Vanderhei (**Sigourney Weaver**)? And so what if Tim's shifty-eyed boss, Bill Krogstad (**Stephen Root**), suddenly orders him to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on an important mission, to attend an insurance convention and win the all-important Two Diamonds award? Why all the urgency about that?

We're prepared for Tim to go bonkers at the convention — to get drunk and make a fool of himself, maybe mess around with a prostitute and get stoned on dangerous drugs, to embarrass himself in front of the top insurance official, and so on. All of that does indeed happen, but the key to this slender but inescapably charming main character study is Tim himself.

Once we process the news that Tim has never flown in an airplane, much less traveled outside his hometown, other facets of his essential out-of-it-ness begin to make sense: the sobriety (root beer for him, thanks), the religiosity (where he comes from, insurance agents hold prayer breakfasts), his faith in fixed [illegible], etc. Also the fact that Tim isn't exactly setting the world on fire career-wise. But he's a genuinely nice guy, and by all indications a sentimental monogamist. So when he lands in the title town and experiences it as if it were Las Vegas, we laugh with him as well as at him.

Cedar Rapids

Directed by Miguel Arteta. With Ed Helms and Anne Heche. Opens Friday.

The Eagle

Directed by Kevin Macdonald. With Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell. Opens Friday.

Actor and comedian Helms, of TV's ***The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*** and ***The Office***, relies on a similar set of character traits for Tim Lippe, with a dash of stablemate Steve Carell and echoes of a pair of other comic Tims, Allen and Conway. But the entertainment property Arteta and his cast most often refer to is another Ed Helms movie, ***The Hangover***.

Cedar Rapids is *The Hangover* for squares. Pile on **John C. Reilly** and **Isiah Whitlock Jr.** as "wild man-quiet man" corporate suite-mates, **Anne Heche** as Tim's red-haired convention fling, **Alia Shawkat** as the hotel hooker, and the always dependable **Kurtwood Smith** as the sanctimonious insurance industry honcho, and we're in business. The only things missing are Mike Tyson, a crazy Chinese gangster, a wild animal, and a lost baby. What do you want — this is Iowa.

Cedar Rapids lacks the ironic bite found in the work of one of its producers, filmmaker **Alexander Payne**, but the subtle comic touches of perceived "Midwestern life" are the same ones we admired in such films as *About Schmidt* and *Citizen Ruth*. If director Arteta (***Youth in Revolt***) is guilty of damping down the nastiness lurking just beneath the loud sweaters and hotel bars of the Midwest, he's at least generous with Tim's essential sweetness. Tim's default exclamation is that favorite of airheads everywhere, "Super awesome!" He says it so much we can see he's really trying to convince himself that everything will turn out right. And it will. If not in *Cedar Rapids*, then maybe back home in Brown Valley.

Is ***The Eagle*** an allegory on the current Central Asian petro-wars? Maybe so, but there are other things to talk about with **Kevin Macdonald**'s well-constructed historical adventure, the latest in the chain of Roman Empire-costumed crowd pleasers that began with *Gladiator*.

For one, director Macdonald (a documentary maker and grandson of renowned British producer **Emeric Pressburger**), screenwriter **Jeremy Brock**, and novelist **Rosemary Sutcliff** see to it that legionary officer Marcus Aquila (**Channing Tatum**) pays attention to the telltale details of ancient Roman life, like burning an offering to his *lares* and *penates* — ancestral household deities — before embarking on a commando mission into Scotland to rescue the golden-eagle standard of his late father's Ninth Legion, circa 140 CE. That body of imperial conquerors marched out and vanished, no doubt having tangled with fierce locals (shot on location in Scotland and Hungary) such as the Seal People of the North, who paint their faces and dance like Native Americans.

If we're forced to choose one contemporary Romans vs. barbarians movie, this is the one. The lines are not unbearably stupid, the Picts are appropriately savage, and there's the presence of **Donald Sutherland** as Marcus' uncle. Now somebody please explain the infinity pool at the Roman villa in Britain. Fittingly, it's Guern (played by actor **Mark Strong**), a grizzled survivor of the Ninth Legion massacre, who offers a link to present-day overseas campaigns. Speaking of the rugged countryside beyond Hadrian's Wall, Guern observes that there's nothing here worth taking, but that they always have to push on and have more wars. The eternal soldier's complaint. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to calendar@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Gnomeo and Juliet CGI adaptation of the Shakespeare classic, but there's a catch: the lovestruck lovers are garden gnomes [illegible]. With James McAvoy and Emily Blunt voicing the title [illegible]. Directed by Kelly Asbury. [illegible] (84 min.) [illegible]

Just Go With It Romantic comedy starring [illegible] and Adam Sandler as an [illegible] plastic [illegible] and his office manager who become caught [illegible] when he pretends to be married to [illegible] [illegible]. Directed by Dennis Dugan; adapted from [illegible] book and movie *Cactus Flower* by [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible]

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never 3D [illegible] [illegible] his 2010 [illegible] tour. Directed by Jon Chu. [illegible]

The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2011, Animated The animated side of the annual Academy shorts. [illegible] and this year is no exception. The clear champion is [illegible] [illegible]. Also great: [illegible] Directed by Teddy Newton. (85 min.) [illegible]

The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2011, Live Action This year's [illegible] of Oscar-worthy live-action short films is a bit heavy on violence, both implied and [illegible] out. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (105 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

ONGOING

127 Hours [illegible] [illegible] with the help of A.R. Rahman's music and cinematography by Enrique Chediak and Anthony Dod Mantle, [illegible] based on the real [illegible] of Aron Ralston [illegible] (93 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Another Year [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany; **AFC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BK** = Cinemark Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = [illegible] Pleasant Hill; [illegible] = Century Bayfair; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; [illegible] = Regal Crow Canyon; [illegible] = [illegible]; [illegible] = Century Union City; **CWV** = Century Walnut Creek; **DE** = AMC Deer Valley; [illegible]; [illegible]; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PIE** = Landmark Piedmont; [illegible]; [illegible]; [illegible] = Regal Hacienda; [illegible]; [illegible] = Landmark Shattuck; [illegible] = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WNS** = [illegible]

Lesley Manville leads the terrific group/therapeutic [illegible] as Mary, a lonely, middle-aged [illegible] worker who [illegible] to [illegible] out of any [illegible] of happiness — with Ruth Sheen, Jim Broadbent, Peter Wight, David Bradley, [illegible] Staunton (in cameo), and Martin Savage in [illegible] episode Leigh's [illegible] improvised dialogue [illegible]. (129 min.) (KV) (CAPH, AI

Barney's Version Paul Giamatti [illegible] to the Sideways [illegible] again [illegible] the end of Barney Panofsky, [illegible] Mordecai Richler's self-consciously self-absorbed Jewish Montrealer. Barney's frantic [illegible] with [illegible] wives and girlfriends (Rosamund Pike, [illegible], Minnie Driver), his [illegible] (Dustin Hoffman) and [illegible] character-driven comic [illegible] another J. Lewis and [illegible] another [illegible] same-how manage to [illegible]. (134 min.) (KV) (CAPH, [illegible]

Biutiful [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], and [illegible] the man with a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel, 21 Grams). Actor Javier Bardem [illegible] the role of Uxbal, a terminally ill resident of Barcelona who makes [illegible] among the [illegible], a [illegible] of suffering Chinese immigrant workers, the squad of [illegible] African street vendors, and the ghosts of [illegible] past, but [illegible] Iñárritu — who wrote the screenplay with Armando Bo and Nicolás Giacobone — [illegible]. The [illegible] is probably the magic-realist vision of [illegible] (147 min.) (KV) (CAPH, CA

Black Swan [illegible] performance as a [illegible] Darren Aronofsky's psychological [illegible], which isn't that [illegible] a proposition than his portrait of another [illegible] (and scarred) [illegible]. The [illegible] in her breakthrough "grown-up" role after years of [illegible] portrays Nina, up for the [illegible] part in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and [illegible] by a rival ballerina (Mila Kunis), the ballet company's director (Vincent Cassel), and her own [illegible] mother (Barbara Hershey) — but Nina's biggest [illegible] are of her own making. Shades of Brian De Palma, [illegible] Polanski, and [illegible] Powell (The Red Shoes), [illegible] (with Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, and John J. McLaughlin, from Heinz's story) [illegible] adds his personal stamp to the [illegible] notion. (107 min.) (KV) [illegible] CWC, [illegible] CEPH, CH, CUC, [illegible] CA, PM, RG, V

Blue Valentine Back and forth in time we go with a [illegible] middle-class, [illegible] bright man and woman as they love story [illegible] and [illegible], tenderly at first, then [illegible]. Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams put on [illegible] of acting as Dean and Cindy — Williams is [illegible] — but there's something cold and [illegible] about this. (120 min.) (KV) (BS, CAPH, S, V

The Company Men Late-entry "economic special" takes itself very seriously in the [illegible] of a group of [illegible] Boston-area transportation [illegible] (played by Tommy Lee Jones), Craig T. Nelson, Chris Cooper, and Ben Affleck, in descending order of [illegible] learning the hard way about loyalty and the [illegible]. TV vet [illegible] John Wells (E.R., Southland, The West Wing) [illegible] the guys, [illegible] Affleck [illegible] Kevin Costner who [illegible] with his hands and [illegible] (109 min.) (KV) (CEPH, [illegible])

Country Strong Drama about a country singer's comeback and romantic [illegible]. Starring [illegible] Paltrow, Leighton Meester, and Tim McGraw, written and directed by Shana Feste. (112 min.) (CWC, [illegible])

The Dilemma A Chicago small [illegible] owner (Vince Vaughn) [illegible] a [illegible] for a big deal, [illegible] whether to tell his stressed-out partner and [illegible] (Kevin James) and the latter's wife (Winona Ryder) is cheating on him. [illegible] Ron Howard [illegible] to be a [illegible] comedy turns out to be neither [illegible] Vaughn [illegible] to [illegible] photographs of the [illegible] laughs, [illegible] emotional [illegible] and the story [illegible] (111 min.) [illegible] (CWC, CB, ECPH, CH, CUC, [illegible]

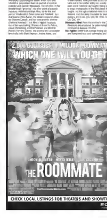
Dinosaurs Alive! From the [illegible] Dinosaurs are [illegible] by paleontologists and [illegible] (CLCSC

The Fighter [illegible] boxing pic is [illegible] and [illegible] by a [illegible] screenplay and [illegible] overcoming [illegible] the [illegible] Mickey Ward (Mark Wahlberg, playing a real-life fighter) must overcome the "help" of the crack-addicted, [illegible] older brother (Christian Bale) and their [illegible], [illegible] mother (Melissa Leo) while trying to punch his way to the top. Also in [illegible] equally tough girlfriend (Amy Adams). The fight sequences are the [illegible] about it. The knuckle-sandwich [illegible] by a [illegible] of four writers, and [illegible] (114 min.) [illegible] CWC, CEPH, CUC, [illegible], RH, [illegible]

From Prada to Nada Adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, starring Camilla Belle and Alexa Vega as a pair of [illegible] sisters who suddenly lose their fortune. Directed by Angel Gracia, [illegible] by Luis Alfaro, Craig Fernandez, and Fina Torres. (107 min.) [illegible] CH, CEPH, CH, CUC

The Green Hornet Christoph [illegible] [illegible] temporarily at the start of [illegible] action [illegible], which [illegible] the old '60s TV series with Bruce Lee and [illegible] Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg [illegible] [illegible] instead on [illegible] playboy [illegible] publishing [illegible] and [illegible] (Rogen) and his [illegible] servant, Kato (Jay Chou). [illegible] turn on the [illegible] and Kato [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible], and Rogen plays the Green Hornet as an [illegible] along to the ride, which [illegible] you can't quite buy it, [illegible] Gondry (Be Kind Rewind, The Science of Sleep) is an odd choice to stream an action film, and the [illegible] from one half-baked scene to the next. (119 min.) (KV) (BS, [illegible] CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CH, RH, CRC, [illegible]

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, part I Cliffhanger [illegible] episode in the franchise displays "doozy" Harry's [illegible] heart, [illegible] Voldemort emotional (Ralph Fiennes) and his [illegible] at [illegible] their [illegible] down [illegible] among Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson), and [illegible] Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint). [illegible] an [illegible] visit to the Ministry of Magic and the [illegible] effects, the middle saga [illegible] a lot. Best sequence: the "Three Brothers" [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] story [illegible]



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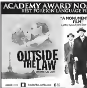

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M&T

in the humongous cast are Rhys [illegible], Frank Shaw, [illegible], and Andy Linden, among others. The Potter [illegible] is definitely pleased off. (146 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Housemaid Im Sang-Soo's silky-toned [illegible] from such frames as [illegible] and gives them a very South Korean twist, to the tale of a sweet, conscientious young woman named Eun-yi (played by Jeon Do-yeon) who unwittingly takes a domestic job in a nest of vipers. [illegible] between [illegible] as the wicked rich family's [illegible], and juvenile Ahn Seo-hyun as an enigmatic little daughter of the household — is she really a bad seed? Adapted by [illegible] (The President's Last Bang) and [illegible] from Kim Ki-young's 1960 [illegible] of the same title. But with [illegible] and [illegible] violence. (106 min.) (K.V.)

The Illusionist Animator Sylvain Chomet (The Triplets of Belleville) goes strolling, to the late French [illegible] auteur Jacques Tati with this nostalgic, sentimental, undoubtedly weepy animated [illegible]. A [illegible] the hands elderly magician [illegible] once or has adopts a shy, [illegible] girl he meets at a tiny pub in Scotland, and attempts to bring some magic into her life — knowing there's very little [illegible] for this. Chomet [illegible] might say [illegible], including almost no dialogue, [illegible] sight gags, and the wistful [illegible] from such films as [illegible] and [illegible]. Chomet's Tati [illegible] may or may not be pleased — there's a lot of controversy with both Tati's and [illegible] over the [illegible] lines — but [illegible] isn't a [illegible] for quality animated sweetness are in for a treat. (80 min.) (K.V.)

Inside Job So who got us into the Great Recession? Greedy banks, rapacious financiers, paid-off [illegible], and every regulation-destroying [illegible] and government official since Ronald Reagan, says this outraged but cool-headed doc by Charles Ferguson (No End in Sight). The [illegible] of [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible] high to [illegible], but [illegible] Ferguson, [illegible], and [illegible] Matt Damon lay it all out. It's [illegible] the [illegible] percent of [illegible] did quite well, [illegible] you bet the rest of us continue to pay the tab for the "global Ponzi scheme" that [illegible] of dollars and a very few hands — "private gains at public loss," as one [illegible] it. The film's [illegible] can we believe in? Talking heads include [illegible] Christine Lagarde, [illegible] Dominique Strauss-Kahn, and [illegible] George Soros. (120 min.) (K.V.)

Ip Man 2: Legend of the Grandmaster Sequel [illegible] of the Donnie Yen/[illegible] Wilson Yip [illegible] to legendary martial arts [illegible] Ip Man [illegible], but visually [illegible] with the added bonus of Hong Kong [illegible] Sammo Hung as the [illegible] to the dignified Master Ip's [illegible] Wing Chun discipline of kung fu. The real [illegible], of course, are the [illegible] "foreign devil" British [illegible], [illegible] Western-style boxer named Twister (played by Darren Shahlavi) who challenges [illegible] to a fistfight. Producer Wong and [illegible] Yip's return to "old school" HK [illegible], filmed in Shanghai, [illegible] sparkling [illegible] and [illegible] fight scenes (choreographed by Hung) and [illegible] released [illegible]. (108 min.) (K.V.)

The King's Speech No holiday season would be complete without a stately British [illegible] and the Weinstein Company obliges us this year with this pleasant [illegible] about the Duke of York (Colin Firth), who had to overcome a serious stammer in order to take the throne as King George VI and lead his people [illegible]. The movie is based on the [illegible] of Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), an Australian [illegible] therapist who [illegible] the royal's vocal impediment, and the [illegible]. This [illegible] buddy romance is [illegible] by a [illegible] the [illegible] marriage of the duke's [illegible] Edward VIII, [illegible], and [illegible] Timothy Spall [illegible] Churchill. (118 min.) (J.J.) [illegible]

Little Fockers The [illegible] — [illegible] and [illegible] for this [illegible], but they'd already [illegible] by the time the [illegible] in [illegible] preparing to [illegible]. The [illegible] (Meet the Parents [illegible] $100 million; Meet the Fockers, $279 million) [illegible] everyone wants to [illegible]. [illegible] by Harvey Keitel [illegible] and [illegible]. Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman [illegible] Meet the Fockers, and the [illegible] Laura Dern, Jessica Alba, [illegible] McCarthy, Blythe Danner and Teri Polo, as the [illegible] wife [illegible] they were [illegible] allowed on the [illegible]. Paul Weitz [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

The Mechanic Jason Statham takes over for Charles Bronson in this [illegible] of the 1972 [illegible] flick. The hero is one of those cool, [illegible] men who've been strolling [illegible] since at least Jean-Pierre Melville's Le Samouraï (1967), and while that [illegible] was still [illegible], it's as played out at this point [illegible] Statham can [illegible]. The plot has [illegible] mentor (Donald Sutherland) [illegible] orders from [illegible] organization. Then

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[illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Natalie Portman [illegible]

Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today [illegible]

Outside the Law [illegible]

Rabbit Hole [illegible] (Aaron Eckhart) [illegible] John Cameron Mitchell [illegible]

The Rite [illegible] (Anthony Hopkins) [illegible]

The Roommate [illegible]

Sanctum [illegible]

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The Social Network [illegible]

Somewhere [illegible]

Tangled [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] NASA [illegible]

Tron: Legacy [illegible]

True Grit [illegible]

The Way Back [illegible]

Winter's Bone [illegible]

Yogi Bear [illegible]

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

[illegible] (59 min., 2009): [illegible] (CL, 7:00)
[illegible] (2010): National Theatre Live (RCC, 7:00)
[illegible] (47 min., 1963): [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)
The Band Wagon (112 min., 1953): Cerrito Classic (RCC, 7:15)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Rope (80 min., 1948): Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 7:00)
Casablanca (102 min., 1942): Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, 8:00)
[illegible] (91 min., 1960): Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 8:40)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The Band Wagon (112 min., 1953): Cerrito Classics (RCC, 11:00 a.m.)
[illegible] (100 min., 2008): [illegible] (PFA, 3:00)
[illegible] (101 min., 1951): Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 7:00)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Band Wagon (112 min., 1953): Cerrito Classics (RCC, 11:00 a.m.)
The Lunch Love Community Documentary Project (122 min., 2011): followed by *Screenagers: Thirteenth Annual Bay Area High School Film and Video Festival* (total running time 120 min., 2011): Special Events: School Days (PFA, 3:00)
Story of [illegible] (104 min., 1959): Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 5:00)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

L'Atalante (89 min., 1934): Followed by *Zero for Conduct* (41 min., 1933): Film 50: History of Cinema (PFA, 3:10)
The [illegible] Deception (84 min., 1982): Preceded by potluck and social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by discussion (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)
Fela! (2011): National Theatre Live (RCC, 7:00)

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MON-THUR: 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

TRUE GRIT (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MON-THUR: 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

GNOMEO & JULIET 3D (G)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:15
MON-THUR: 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15

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MUSIC

METAL'S ORGANIC SIDE

Cello-driven outfit Grayceon unleashes a heavier sound on *All We Destroy*

By Kathleen Richards

If you think you've heard a lot of deep wooden sawing on metal albums lately, chances are it's the work of San Francisco cellist **Jackie Perez Gratz**. Classically trained and raised by classical-musician parents, Perez Gratz has become the metal community's go-to string player. As such, she gets asked to play on a lot of records, so she has to be picky. So far, her list of credits includes **Amber Asylum** (of which she was a member for ten years), **Giant Squid** (of which she is a current member), **Asunder**, **Agalloch**, **Neurosis**, **Om**, and **Cattle Decapitation**. But her own project **Grayceon** is where she really lets loose.

Formed in 2005, Grayceon — also featuring guitarist **Max Doyle** and drummer **Zack Farwell** (who both also play in **Walken**) — has crafted a sound that's organic, intricate, complex, and somewhat introspective. It's not confined by traditional songwriting structure or the typical "metal" aesthetic.

The trio's new album, and first on the **Profound Lore** label, *All We Destroy*, has the San Francisco band moving in a heavier, looser direction. Opener "Dreamer Deceived" launches into a doomy riff with Perez Gratz shrieking over her melodic vocals. The band puts a strong emphasis on loud-soft dynamics as well as ever-changing riffs and parts. There are moments when the drums drop out completely ("We Can") and Perez Gratz sings mournfully, as in the cello-driven lamentation "Once a Shadow." Cello and guitar take turns playing the lead, and often interweave melodies that play off each other.

The shifts were a natural part of the band's evolution, Perez Gratz explained. "As we've progressed as a band, we're constantly trying to do new things because it's fun, and because of that it definitely sounds different," said the cellist, sipping a fizzy, decidedly un-metal non-alcoholic drink at **The Royal Cuckoo** bar in San Francisco's Outer Mission a few weeks ago.

Grayceon's Zack Farwell, Jackie Perez Gratz, and Max Doyle

David Gates

While some songs on the new album came together easily, others took more effort to flesh out. The musicians kept tweaking "A Road Less Traveled" right up until the recording process. "It's based off of feel and trial and error," the soft-spoken Doyle said. "Seeing what feels best."

"You can spend two months figuring out what to play over a thirty-second part of a song," added drummer Farwell, who helps with song arrangements and appears to be the band's biggest cheerleader ("Fun" and "awesome" were adjectives he used frequently.) "It's hard and easy at the same time," he continued. "Some parts come completely natural to us and some parts, we can't play it — we literally have to teach our bodies how to play this stuff."

The most obvious change from the band's past work is Perez Gratz's vocals. She screams more than she ever has — a result of having joined Giant Squid, she says. Lyrics were also more integrated into the songwriting process. Instead of writing lyrics at the very end, as Perez Gratz did with Grayceon's prior two albums, this time she wrote them concurrently with the music. However, Doyle and Farwell didn't hear the vocals until the tracking process because, as Farwell put it, they have a "shitty" PA system.

Show Details

Grayceon plays its CD release party with Worm Ouroboros and Hollow Mirrors on Friday, Feb. 11, at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 10 p.m., $10-$12. BottomoftheHill.com

As opposed to the band's second album, *This Grand Show*, which evolved around a distinct theme, *All We Destroy* is simply a collection of its latest material. It was written over a year and a half, and recorded at **Atomic Garden Recording Studio** in East Palo Alto by longtime friend **Jack Shirley**. Doyle plays all his songs with his fingers instead of a pick, which gives the whole album a decidedly earthy vibe.

But there is a concept behind the album's title. "The idea is that the things we leave behind tell a story, and unfortunately, usually the things we leave behind are things that we've destroyed," Perez Gratz explained. The title is also a lyric taken from the song "Shellmounds," which laments our local history with garbage.

In a way, the sound of *All We Destroy* is distinctly Bay Area. Grayceon is part of a community of bands rising to the level of national (albeit still underground) consciousness — a scene that's distinct from the Bay Area's thrash roots and stoner metal contingency. "We're much more exposed to noncommercial music, whereas I think some young kids living in Boise, Idaho, they're probably getting force-fed more mainstream stuff," said Perez Gratz. "I'm not surprised that a big city is producing stuff that's more fringe, non-traditional."

Toronto-based label Profound Lore was the first to really capitalize on this scene. Despite being based in another country, label founder **Chris Bruni** has become somewhat of a champion of the Bay Area scene — as well as having signed experimental acts such as Australia's black noise behemoth **Portal**, doom band **YOB**, and Portland's elusive black metallers, Agalloch. Among the local bands on his roster: Amber Asylum, Asunder, **Ludicra**, **Slough Feg**, **Worm Ouroboros**, and now Grayceon. Bruni is kind of doing for these bands what **Frank Kozik's Man's Ruin** label did for the local stoner-rock movement in the Nineties, exposing them to a national — and even international — audience.

Despite the seemingly novel idea of pairing stringed instruments in a metal band, the concept is hardly new. Locally, Worm Ouroboros and Amber Asylum also feature strings, as does the group **Judgement Day**, which markets itself as "string metal." However, that latter trio (which features cello, violin, and drums) plays largely to a non-metal crowd, and isn't part of the metal scene, per se. Grayceon, by comparison, feels like a heavy band that happens to have a cellist — and largely appeals to metal fans.

For Perez Gratz, however, playing her cello in a contemporary context wasn't an obvious move. Though she had been taking lessons since first grade, she put the instrument down after high school. Then, while attending the **San Francisco Art Institute**, Perez Gratz would practice in a stairwell that had amazing acoustics. Her playing eventually reached the ears of Amber Asylum's **Kris Force**, who taught at the school and had been searching for a cellist to join her band.

Initially, the transition to an improvising metal musician proved difficult. "When you're classically trained, you're only playing other people's music," said Perez Gratz. "And everything about the music is dictated to you: what volume to play, how fast to move your bow, what kind of attack to use on your bow, the note, what key to play in, the length of the note. And I was petrified of writing when I first started playing in Amber Asylum."

Luckily, Amber Asylum's music was conducive to improvisation thanks to its slow, repetitive song structures. After ten years of playing in that band, Perez became adept at writing her own material. And that's what eventually caught the ears of Doyle and Farwell. "We had been playing in Walken for a long time," Doyle recalled. "We got to know Jackie seven, eight years ago just through friends and through the music scene. We were both fans of her work in Amber Asylum and thought it would be amazing to incorporate her." After hearing a recording of a song they had written, Perez Gratz was in.

Getting signed to Profound Lore was certainly a coup for Grayceon. It gives the musicians a kind of instant street cred — so no doubt the band's fan base will increase just by being associated with it. For Profound Lore, it's an obvious fit. Grayceon was shopping for a new label (it had been signed to DC-based **Vendlus Records**) and put together a demo. "We had met Chris Bruni when Grayceon was on its first tour in Toronto," Perez Gratz recalled. "He was a fan and knew me from working with me [in Amber Asylum and Asunder]. And when I approached him with this new demo, he was like, 'Yeah, just send it.' And two days later he was like, 'I love it, let's talk.' So he's definitely been championing us for sure."

In the new band, the cellist faced another learning curve — how to play faster and more intricately. "Playing with these guys was very challenging," she recalled. "Not writing, but just playing faster and having to remember a lot more ... it can be trying." Doyle and Farwell also found themselves starting from scratch, so to speak. Doyle had devised a new tuning (which remains a secret) while Farwell was making the transition to drums, having been a bassist prior. Accordingly, Perez Gratz had to figure out a tuning that would allow her to play open strings and double stops (two notes at once), which turned out to be a half step down from regular classical tuning. The result created a more dynamic, experimental template. "We were starting at the ground level," Farwell said. "So the sky was the limit." ■

Kathleen.Richards@EastBayExpress.com

THE BLACKMAN-SANTANA FUSION

Newlyweds Cindy Blackman and Carlos Santana pay tribute to Tony Williams

By Rachel Swan

Cindy Blackman

With her taut muscled arms and Angela Davis fro, drummer **Cindy Blackman** is one of those people who just looks famous — even from far across a room, and even if you don't know who she is. If you check out one of her shows, there's a slight chance you'll run into her slightly more famous husband, a Latin American guitarist who hit his peak in the Sixties and Seventies. Here's a clue: his last name rhymes with Ran tan-a.

He sat in the second row from the back during a Thursday night set at Oakland Yoshi's, at which Blackman played with the **Spectrum Road Ensemble**, a group featuring guitarist **Vernon Reid**, keyboardist **John Medeski**, and bassist **Jack Bruce**. Launched several years ago, the ensemble is really a tribute to fusion drummer **Tony Williams**, who held down rhythm sections for Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Dexter Gordon, and a host of other greats. Williams' discography is disproportionately vast compared to his name recognition. According to Reid, the drummer was woefully underappreciated throughout his short life. He died of a heart attack in 1997 while living and teaching in the Bay Area.

Even posthumously, Williams never quite got his due. "Now he was the one who invented jazz-rock fusion — not Miles, with all due respect," Reid argued, as the audience clapped approvingly. Even **Carlos Santana** nodded, although he had come to the show wearing a jacket adorned with Miles' face on the back.

In truth, it was a little odd — and at the same time a little exciting — to hear someone speak so politically about a genre that's fallen into ill repute. Many of us hear the term "jazz-rock fusion" and don't immediately think *Bitches Brew* or *Filles de Kilimanjaro*. We don't think of weird meters or rhythmic complexity. We don't even think Miles and Tony Williams. Instead, we think of jam-band wankery and directionless improvisations. We might even associate "fusion" with one of its soft palette offshoots — like smooth jazz or bad Eighties synthesizer music. In January the web site All About Jazz ran a column with the somewhat defensive headline "Best Fusion Albums that Don't Suck." Because the genre is defined by its impurities it's easy to cannibalize. It's also easy to dis.

Thus the Spectrum Road quartet has a public-interest angle that may or may not be intentional. Reid and Bruce launched the project in order to resurrect and redefine Williams (they consider themselves his hagiographers). And yet the band has an even larger purpose — bringing a sense of tradition and proper musicianship to an unwieldy genre.

The show at Yoshi's was technical and complex in a way that might have intimidated some listeners. At 8 p.m., the house looked as if it had nearly sold out to an audience of hard-core jazz heads. Many people had come alone just to hear the music. Some sat by themselves at far-corner tables, nursing beers and eyeing Santana. Others had clearly come for the cachet of Cindy Blackman, who has become something of a celebrity due to her gender, her highly publicized marriage, and her work with rock singer **Lenny Kravitz**. When she sat down at the drum set, fans hooted. When she delivered her first genuine solo, the room erupted. Reid leaned backward as though he'd been hit by something. At the end of the song, he introduced her: "With the Afro like a halo – the empress – Miss Cindy ... Blackman ... Santana." People cheered. Santana sat and clapped quietly. A couple songs later, he rose and slipped backstage, leaving a bouquet of flowers on the table.

Blackman clearly gave the band street cred, though the music also spoke for itself. It was fusion in the sense that every song head was riff-based, which usually meant a single line played over and over again, rather than a full-on A section. The solos were long and intensely focused, the chord changes intentionally murky. Blackman veered between rock and jazz, sometimes playing backbeats, sometimes providing a swing groove, sometimes battering her snare. Medeski played a Hammond B3 organ with a Hohner Clavinet stacked on top, so that he could handle both simultaneously. He plugged the Hammond into a Leslie speaker cabinet to create weird sound effects — like a left-hand bass line that sounded like a soda can being crackled, or a sustained note so high and shrill that audience members had to cover their ears. In one song he made smeary glissandos by flattening his palms on the keyboards.

The real payoff came at the end, when Santana got on stage for a two-song encore. He led the band in a riff that sounded almost like a tango. Fusion fans in the audience seemed to recognize it, and many of them brightened. One woman began dancing in her seat. For the band's final number, Santana broke into the only truly familiar song of the night — "Roadhouse Blues" by **The Doors**. By then it was well past 10 p.m., and patrons had already queued up outside for the second set. Nobody inside seemed to mind. Santana ceded the stage to Reid, who delivered a virtuosic rock solo in total jazz stance — meaning he didn't do any of the exhibitionist lean moves or crouch-moves that rockers normally do to show they're "really *into* it." The crowd cheered anyway. Santana turned toward Blackman, whom he wed just a couple months ago after proposing to her on stage in Tinley Park, Illinois. He must have winked at her, because she smiled back. ●

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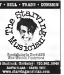
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(Record Release)
Free Spirit & Disengage
FEBRUARY 26
La Chaparralita(Mexicali,Mex.)
Rudo Movimiento(Riverside)
Mafia Rusa(Orange County)
La Noche Oskura(Sacramento)
FEBRUARY 27th
GENITORTURERS
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PROPHETIC PROLIFIC

Punk-rock geezers, folk-root prog, and tiars of the melting pot.

Social Distortion

Hard Times and Nursery Rhymes

Prolific is not a word one would apply to Southern California punk outfit **Social Distortion**. Dedicated, maybe. Resourceful. Reliable. But not prolific. It's been seven years since the band's last record, *Sex, Love and Rock 'n' Roll*, which came eight years after 1996's *White Light, White Heat, White Trash*, which came four years after *Somewhere Between Heaven and Hell*. Social Distortion has released seven records since forming long ago in 1978 — a year unbeknownst to many of its modern-day teenage fans.

And context gets more than a bit confused when it comes to addressing a new Social D offering. Who could rightly expect *Hard Times* to sound anything like its distant predecessors, especially as frontman and songwriter **Mike Ness** eases into middle-age (he's two months from fifty) and his bandmates keep changing every few years? More to the point, who would want it to?

Ness, for one. *Hard Times* does nothing you haven't heard Social Distortion do before — except maybe those soulful female backing vocals. It still blends punk with country and western, still dwells on hard-luck themes, still loves cars and guts and grit. Ness still pours his full force and simple attitude into his vocals, and his high-gain electric guitar still churns out hard-driving power chords. His songwriting, inimitable after all these decades, is still alternately working class and transcendent; a few of the new songs, like "Bakersfield" and the apropos "Still Alive," rank among his best. Somehow, Social D is still Social D. For now, that's good enough. In another seven years, will it still be so? (Epitaph)

— *Nate Seltenrich*

The Decemberists

The King Is Dead

The previous **Decemberists** opus *Hazards of Love* proudly asserted the influences of 1970s progressive rock ("prog" for short these days) such as **Genesis** (when **Peter Gabriel**, not Phil Collins, was singer) and **Jethro Tull**. For *The King Is Dead*, singer **Colin Meloy** and company downplay that ornate and fastidious sound in favor of a much more earthy, organic approach. If one discerns echoes of early **REM** (i.e., its first five albums), that's not exactly a fluke — that band's guitarist, **Peter Buck**, makes his presence felt all over this album with his chiming six-strings.

So call *The King Is Dead* The Decemberists' "folk roots" album. **Chris Funk**'s pedal steel guitar is brought to the forefront, **Jenny Conlee**'s accordion is more prominent, and guest **Gillian Welch** sweetly sings backups and vocals throughout. Many songs have that quasi-rustic, not-quite-country-not-quite-rock quality evoking, though not imitative of, **The Band** and **Neil Young**. There's a British Isles folk flavor to some of the new songs — take the saturnine "Rox in the Box," with its distinctive Irish lilt via fiddle and accordion. "Rise to Me" is a country-flavored tune-waltz that wouldn't sound out of place on a **Gram Parsons** or **Sandy Denny** album.

Meloy's voice is hearty, plainspoken, and plaintive (without being mope-y) and the songs have alluring and sturdy melodies that bear up under repeated listens. *King* won't win any awards for originality, but that's okay. Since when did originality necessarily equal quality? That's what counts, and this disc has it to spare — the only shortcoming is that it clocks in at a measly forty minutes. (Capitol)

— *Mark Keresman*

At the Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Monday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. $37.50. APEConcerts.com

Vinicius Cantuaria & Bill Frisell

Lagrimas Mexicanas

Living in Brooklyn for the past fifteen or so years has broadened Brazilian singer, guitarist, and songwriter **Vinicius Cantuaria**'s musical vision. He now draws on the sounds of the Cuban, Puerto Rican, Colombian, Venezuelan, Mexican, and other Latin American cultures that surround him there. The Big Apple melting pot is omnipresent on *Lagrimas Mexicanas*, in which Cantuaria sings in a lilting low tenor on most of the ten lovely tunes that he and **Bill Frisell** composed together. Cantuaria alternates between Portuguese and Spanish (the CD booklet provides no translations) but switches awkwardly to English for the set-closing "Forinfas," on which he raises his pitch and sounds rather silly, not unlike the late **Tiny Tim**.

As Cantuaria plays acoustic guitar and sings, electric guitar alchemist Frisell gently surrounds him with an orchestral wash of moaning sound warps, bluesy wah-wah lines, and other atmospheres. Cantuaria's delicately syncopated hand percussion and Frisell's ethereal loops supply many songs with loping samba-derived grooves. Shepherded by Berkeley producer **Lee Townsend**, with the warmth and elegance that typifies his work, *Lagrimas Mexicanas* has the unpretentious feel of two friends sitting around picking for their own enjoyment. This is especially true with the instrumentals "La Curva" and "Cafezinho," which have a laidback ambiance akin to, though somewhat culturally distant from, **Chet Atkins**' duet encounters with buddies like **Lester Flatt**, **Les Paul**, and **Jerry Reed**. (E1 Music)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

At Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 16-17, 8 & 10 p.m. $16-$24. Yoshis.com

LOCAL LIKES

BY RACHEL SWAN

Mike Baker the Bike Maker

Body of Work

Rapper **Mike Baker** errs on the side of house or electro than traditional hip-hop, as exemplified by the glitchy, up-tempo beats on his new mixtape. His rap cadence is best suited to party rhymes and boastful babble, and, as a result, it's pretty light on substance. Still, these songs are incantatory. (self-released)

At The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 p.m. $5-$10.

The Del Mars

Surf Monkey

You gotta hand it to **The Del Mars** for their commitment to a genre that mostly died out forty years ago. The local quintet begins many of its songs with an electric guitar riff that could easily be of **Jerry Lee Lewis** provenance. "Six Foot Stack" is done in a catchy call-and-response form, faithfully replicating the "oooh aahs" and "ooh wah-oohs" of old-fashioned rock bands. Not for nothing is the next song called "Get Retrograde." (self-released)

We Is Shore Dedicated

Smiley

For their fourth studio effort, co-frontmen **Sam Tsitrin** and **Dmitry Ishenko** emphasized production values over scrappy charm. "Evry" rides on a catchy bass line while the sax on "Red Bird" could have derived from Indian carnatic music. Crisp tunes like "Lonely Child" make up for the more derivative moments. (Huevo Imaginary Records)

At Amnesia (853 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Mar. 5, 9 p.m.

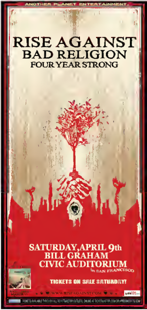
Chloe Makes Music

The Puppeteer

As a singer, **Chloe Roth** is wispy and child-like. As a writer, she's prodigiously talented. Roth fattens her lyrics with alliteration and internal rhyme, tropes she uses most effectively in the surrealist love song "Bows & Arrows." Produced by **Christopher Chu** of **The Morning Benders**, this album is richly orchestrated, with a dense quilting of strings laid beneath the singer's acoustic guitar. (self-released)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Monday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. $10.

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Likes c/o the *East Bay Express*.



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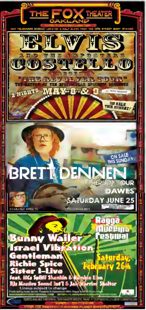

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SUN Feb. 13th 11:30am — Valentine's Day Brunch:
THURS Feb. 17th 9:00pm — El Kool Kyle spins Cumbia and Old Latin Records
SAT Feb. 19th 10pm — Lord Nasty and the Seekers of Perversion
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THURS Feb. 24th 10pm — Gigante Thursday
SAT Feb. 26th 10pm — The Bitter Honeys

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

[illegible]: Tickets on sale Sunday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m., Sat., June 4, 9:30 p.m. $35. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] on sale Thursday, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m., Sat., June 25, 8 p.m. $28. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Deftones: Tickets on sale Sunday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Mon., June 13, 7:30 p.m., $35-$42.50. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.

Keith Urban: Tickets go on sale Saturday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m., Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m., $58.50-$78.50. HP Pavilion, 525 W. Santa Clara St., San Jose.

Korn: Tickets available Friday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m., Thu., March 31, 8 p.m. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.

[illegible]: Tickets on sale Sunday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m., Sat., May 7, 8 p.m. $33. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary St., San Francisco.

THURSDAY 10

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

California Honeydrops Trio Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50, $28.50.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Mama Buzz, 7-9 p.m., donations accepted.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The George [illegible] Quartet Yoshi's, Feb. 10-11, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$26.

Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Italian Colors, 6:45-9:15 p.m., free.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Reggie Matthews & Mary Van Note, Fox [illegible] Bar & Patio, 10 p.m.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8.

T.M.B. w/ Mighty Hega, Edge City Punks, [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7:30 p.m., $8.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Mystik Journeymen The New Parish, 9:30 p.m., $15.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] The Uptown, 7:30 p.m., $8-$10.

[illegible] / [illegible] 8 p.m., $8, $10.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

John Claudelebosko w/ Miguel [illegible], Passionkid, 9 p.m., $8.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 p.m., $25-$77.

Eddie Marshall w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8-9 p.m., free.

Martha Wainwright [illegible] w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $25.

The [illegible] Le Colonial, 7-10 p.m., free.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ My Quartet & The Impellers, The Independent, 8 p.m., $20.

An Evening of Song and Quartet Word w/ **Peter [illegible]** w/ The [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10.

[illegible] [illegible] (Finland), [illegible] Sound, [illegible], Rah Metal, DNA Lounge, 7:30 p.m., $22, $55.

[illegible] Emerging Artist Showcase & [illegible] Dance Party w/ [illegible] & [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10.

They Sing Their Songs of Prince: [illegible] w/ [illegible] (featuring Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine), [illegible], Ryan Harvey & [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $22, $30.

[illegible] 2011 [illegible] The Expendables [illegible], 8 p.m., $20, $24.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] music & [illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible], Pal's Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12.

Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra with Special Guest Sheila E. Yoshi's San Francisco, Feb. 10-12, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$35.

FRIDAY 11

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Alasdair Fraser & [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50, $28.50.

Joy [illegible] & The Claudelebosko w/ Scott [illegible], [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m., $8.

John Vanderslice w/ Tartufi, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $17.

[illegible] Thought, [illegible] Mama Buzz, 7-9 p.m., donations accepted.

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Eagles Hall, 8 p.m., $15.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The George [illegible] Quartet Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $26.

Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Italian Colors, 6:45-9 p.m., free.

[illegible] / John [illegible] Quartet Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $15.

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., free.

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ The [illegible], [illegible], Di [illegible] (Radio [illegible]), The Uptown, 9 p.m., $10.

Holiday [illegible] w/ [illegible], 924 Gilman, 8 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Soul soul showcase w/ live performers, Washington Inn, 8 p.m., $7.

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ Palavra, Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $10, $13.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Ryan [illegible] & the [illegible] w/ The Silent Comedy & [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $20.

San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-time Festival Presents The [illegible] w/ The Good Luck Thrift Store [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m., $14, $15.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 p.m., $25-$77.

[illegible] Top of the Mark, 9 p.m., $17.

Eddie Marshall [illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m., free.

The Jimmy Ryan Quartet Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 5:30-8 p.m., free.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Conducted by Gary [illegible], w/ [illegible], [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $27, $30.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $8.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $10, $12.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10.

[illegible] w/ Lydia & The Projects, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $8.

[illegible] Presents the [illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12, $15.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ Los Amigos Invisibles, the Blanket, 8 p.m., $35.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra with Special Guest Sheila E. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$35.

SATURDAY 12

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The New Parish, 6:30 p.m., $8, $12.

The Bellers Mama Buzz, 7-8 p.m., donations accepted.

San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-time Festival [illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible] and the [illegible] Trio, [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50.

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Chamber Ensemble Presents Can I Buy Me Love w/ [illegible], Piedmont Community Church, 7:30 p.m., $25-$35, [illegible], [illegible] of 8 for $240.

[illegible], Ruth & The Zuberman Chamber Players Performing Mozart: Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat Major, K. 563; Brahms: Piano Quintet in F Minor, [illegible] Hall, 8 p.m., $42, [illegible], $72.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Quartet [illegible], 8 p.m., free.

The [illegible] w/ California Flight, Johnny V's, 8 p.m., $10-$25, includes free food.

[illegible] & [illegible] O'Day Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $17.

Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Italian Colors, 6:45-10 p.m., free.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Snowball Corruptors, [illegible], Loose Fights, 924 Gilman, 7:30 p.m., $8.

[illegible] Listening Party The Guartet, 7-9 p.m., free.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], East Bay Rats [illegible], 8 p.m., $5.

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $7.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Ell's Mile High Club, 9 p.m., $7.

[illegible] Release Party w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m., $6.

[illegible] Dance Party w/ [illegible], Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $13.

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HUGH MASEKELA
Friday, March 4, 8PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

KENNY WERNER WITH RANDY BRECKER & DAVID SÁNCHEZ
Saturday, March 5, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

GERALD CLAYTON TRIO
Sunday, March 6, 7PM
[illegible]

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE
Friday, March 11, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
BOURBON KINGS BRASS BAND
Sunday, March 13, 7PM
Herbst Theatre

MARC RIBOT
Wednesday, March 16, 7:30PM
YBCA Forum

MARCUS ROBERTS
Thursday, March 17, 7:30PM
YBCA Forum

GO HOME
BEN GOLDBERG, ELLERY ESKELIN, CHARLIE HUNTER, SCOTT AMENDOLA
Friday, March 18, 8PM
YBCA Forum

PATRICIA BARBER
Saturday, March 19, 8PM
YBCA Forum

YASMIN LEVY
Sunday, March 20, 7PM
Herbst Theatre

JANE MONHEIT
Thursday, March 24, 7:30PM
SF Conservatory of Music

ADAM THEIS & THE JAZZ MAFIA STRING QUARTET
Friday, March 25, 8PM
Swedish American Hall

JAKE SHIMABUKURO
Saturday, March 26, 7PM & 9PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

IRMA THOMAS
Sunday, March 27, 7PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

JOHN SANTOS SEXTET
Saturday, April 2, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

MADELEINE PEYROUX
Friday, April 8, 8PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER
Saturday, April 9, 8PM
Paramount Theatre, Oakland

ASSAD BROTHERS
Sunday, April 10, 7PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

DR. LONNIE SMITH
BARBARA DENNERLEIN
Friday, April 15, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

PROVERB TRIO
JASON LINDNER
Saturday, April 16, 8PM
Swedish American Hall

ELLIS MARSALIS
Sunday, April 17, 7PM
Herbst Theatre

RANDY NEWMAN
Friday, April 22, 8PM
Davies Symphony Hall

BUDDY GUY
JOHN NEMETH
Davies Symphony Hall
Saturday, April 23, 8PM

JOHN SCOFIELD
Friday, April 29, 8PM
Grace Cathedral

LAVAY SMITH
Saturday, April 30, 8PM
YBCA Forum

GABRIELA MONTERO
Sunday, May 1, 2PM
[illegible]

CÉU
Friday, May 6, 8PM
[illegible]

RAVI SHANKAR
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
Thursday, May 19, 7:30PM
Davies Symphony Hall

LIONEL LOUEKE TRIO
YBCA Forum
Friday, May 20, 8PM

ELIANE ELIAS TRIO
SFJAZZ MEMBERS ONLY
Saturday, May 21, 8PM
YBCA Forum

AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE
Sunday, May 22, 7PM
YBCA Forum

RICKIE LEE JONES
Friday, May 27, 8PM
[illegible]

TONY BENNETT
Saturday, May 28, 8PM
[illegible]

STEVE TYRELL
Herbst Theatre
Friday, June 3, 8PM

ROVA SAXOPHONE QRT
33 1/3 WITH DJ OLIVE & DJ P-LOVE
Saturday, June 4, 8PM
Swedish American Hall

LEE RITENOUR
Sunday, June 5, 7PM
Herbst Theatre

A NIGHT IN TREME
REBIRTH BRASS BAND
KERMIT RUFFINS
DONALD HARRISON
BIG SAM WILLIAMS
DR. MICHAEL WHITE
Friday, June 10, 8PM
Davies Symphony Hall

YOUSSOU N'DOUR
ANGELIQUE KIDJO
Friday, June 17, 8PM
Paramount Theatre, Oakland

NIKKI YANOFSKY
Saturday, June 18, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS
Sunday, June 19, 8PM
Davies Symphony Hall

ROY HARGROVE & CEDAR WALTON
Sunday, June 19, 7PM
Herbst Theatre

ANA MOURA
Saturday, June 25, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

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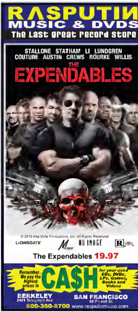
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PICKS

Mystik Journeymen

The Bay's Appleseeds of backpacker hip-hop make their triumphal homecoming this week, two decades since they hawked cassettes outside of Rasputin Music and held $1.87 warehouse parties to pay their electric bill. Emcees **Luckyiam PSC** and **Sunspot Jonz** — collectively known as the **Mystik Journeymen** — were the original **Living Legends.** They built a fan base largely on grass-roots, regaling fans with Underground Survivor shows and Broke Ass Summer Jams (the poor man's analogue to KMEL's annual summer music festival). They did everything on the cheap, from touring (in a Greyhound bus) to recording. And yet, their albums were remarkable, all beautifully illustrative of the backpacker style (complex wordplay, odd references, beats that didn't have to swing). Eventually, the Journeymen brought fellow rappers **Eligh, Scarub, Grouch, Murs, Aesop** and **Bicasso** into their fold, and developed a business model that would ensure real longevity. They have since moved from East Oakland to Los Angeles, but return often enough to maintain Bay Area street cred. They'll play **The New Parish** (579 18th St., Oakland) on Thursday, Feb. 10. 8:30 p.m. $15. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

Sunspot Joe of Mystik Journeymen

Cake

Steadfast contrarianism has been the guiding pole for **Cake** ever since the band was founded amid the great grunge revolution of 1991. But rather than fall in line with the guitar-heavy ambitions emerging from the *Pacific Northwest*, this Sacramento-based outfit instead carved out a distinctive sound that embraced facets of pop, country, funk, new wave, and hip-hop. Punctuated by frontman **John McCrea**'s spoken-word style of singing, arrangements that regularly enlisted trumpeter **Vince DiFiore** as the band's lead instrumentalist, and a penchant for odd covers, Cake garnered a fair share of hits. Among them are "The Distance," "Short Skirt/Long Jacket," and "Never There." After a six-year hiatus, the band returned last month with its sixth album, *Showroom of Compassion*, which wound up reaching the top spot on Billboard's Top 200 Album Chart. That shouldn't come as any surprise, given such gems as the quasi honky-tonker "Sound Away" and a quirky-yet-effective take on **Frank Sinatra**'s "What's Now Is Now." Plus, it's only reasonable to assume that a segment of the listening public is looking for something beyond **Kesha** and **Justin Bieber**. In the meantime, Cake will be cooking up its special brand of stylistic subversion Monday, Feb. 14 through Thursday, Feb. 17, at **The Fillmore** (1805 Geary St., San Francisco). 8 p.m., $36.50. TheFillmore.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Fishtank Ensemble

Since their start in Oakland in 2004, **Fishtank Ensemble** has been wowing crowds with its American take on the rhythms of gypsy music. The quartet is adept at a dizzying array of instruments, including musical saw, theremin, and bouzouki. Moreover, it's able to slide between Django-esque cabaret jazz, flamenco, Balkan/Japanese folk tunes, and the odd meters of Eastern European wedding music without hesitation. The band's Swedish, French, and Serbian members come to their multicultural vision honestly. At **Ashkenaz** (1317 San Pablo, Berkeley) on Wednesday, Feb. 16. 9 p.m. $15. Ashkenaz.com — *J. Poet*

Finntroll.

Finnish Metal Tour

Fresh off of the 70,000 **Tons of Metal** cruise in the Caribbean — which likely set the record for most black T-shirts seen on a cruise ship — Finland's **Finntroll** and **Ensiferum** reunite for the **Finnish Metal Tour**, which stops by the **DNA Lounge** (375 11th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Feb. 10, with **Rotten Sound** and **Barren Earth** in tow. What is Finnish metal, you ask? According to the site MetalFromFinland.com, it's a fertile territory with a bent toward folk, gothic, Viking, and neo-classical sounds. Helsinki's Finntroll — named after a mythical man-beast of yore — is on the more extreme end of the spectrum. Its vocalist, who actually sings in Swedish — has a death growl, but the music incorporates elements of a kind of Finnish folk music called *humppa*. It turns what could be really dark music into something surprisingly jaunty. Fellow countrymen Ensiferum plays an even more triumphant, Viking-inspired version (in English). It's all part of that back-to-the-land, Euro-roots music — like Bon Iver, but more hard-core. Expect flag-waving and merry head-banging. 7:30 p.m., $25, $35 for VIP. DNALounge.com — *Kathleen Richards*

The Zukerman ChamberPlayers

Famed violinist **Pinchas Zukerman** brings his nine-year-old chamber ensemble to Berkeley for their first Bay Area concerts. Sponsored by **Cal Performances**, both concerts include great music by Mozart and Brahms; the second also includes Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*. Given that the members of the **Zukerman ChamberPlayers** include Zukerman, his wife, and several of his former students at the **National Arts Centre Orchestra** in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, expect a special unanimity of vision that could make for exalted music-making. At **Zellerbach Hall** (Telegraph Ave. at Bancroft Way, UC Berkeley) on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. $42-$72. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Tower Of Power Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $49

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Shimshai & Seraphim Sound System w/ Taweeo & Sahee, Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $12-$15

Tenden [illegible] Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $15-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Comeout East Dogpatch Saloon, 9:41 pm, free

San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival Presents: [illegible]

...ms Humboldt w/ Buddy Walters, The Bird Flown, Whiskey Puppy & Elk Clampit, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $13-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Iconic revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Aggrolites! w/ Voodoo Glow Skulls & Kirk Kee Kadiga Rios, Slim's, 8 pm, $15, $18

Cosmonaut w/ Marc Lebeauhere & Aron Magner (The Disco Biscuits), Greg Mitchell (HRAD) and Lane Shaw (Gordon Ivo) & Break Science feat., Beach Bench, The Independent, 9 pm, $20

Beach House w/ The Lonely, Carlton Melton, El Rio, 10 pm, $8

Devil & Wolf Happy Hour Band w/ Other bands, Thee Parkside, 5-8 pm, free

Murder By Death w/ The Builders and the Butchers, Damien Jurado & The Minor Prophets, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $15

Night Horse w/ Electric Sister & The Bingos, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $7

Tumbledown w/ Later Tonight (Santa Cruz), Northern Stars, Berkshire, Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe w/ Club Zen, House of Vibe & Lyfe, The Fillmore, 8 pm, $26

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The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-448-8506
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Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425
Club Valent 471 3rd St., Oakland, 510-465-0165
Cooter Mill 3303 Grand Ave., Fairfax, 510-465-4224
College Lane 420 Fairy St., Shalom, 925-313-3340
Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-3880
Don a Mick Sabana Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-932-1331
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 510-814-4255
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4911

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Gaia Encuentro Latin Jazz Sessions with Special Guest Guest @ Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$30

SUNDAY 13

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Jupiter, 5 pm, free

The Bon Enfans w/ Family Line, Naught & Salvage, Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $10-$15

Jimmy's All-Star Super Session Jimmy hosts a stomach blues band every week, Peter's Restaurant, 8 pm, free

DBE Presents A Den of Peacocks Club (post club) w/ Jubal Boyd Thorne, Libby Meyer, Reba McDonald & Sugar Spell It Out, Downtown Soupspot, 1-11 pm

Classical & Opera

Berkeley West Edge Opera's OperaLab Features Mozart's Zaide w/ soprano Elizabeth Wells, tenors Andrew Morgan & Alex Frankel, baritones Peter Tuft & Wayne Wong, with Robert Bluestein on piano.

Cooler & Boost Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com
Fourn II 1 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-783-1100
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
Prince Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Oakland, 510-642-0090
Island Seaside Club 1438 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-3220
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Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
Jolie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385
Geneve 2131 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-613-8211
Karibbean City 1440 Broadway St., Oakland, 510-251-0780
Oakland Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-5400
King Tide Oakland Pleasanton 3109 Sotano Ave., Oakland
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
Kingfish's Ivy Court 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-601-9300
La Pena Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793
Lakeshore Church Garden Center 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2484
Laney College Oakland 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3542
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677
Manor's Sports Bar & Club 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-7005
Oakland Theater 340 33rd Street, Oakland, 510-530-0168
Starry Lounge 608 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-985-2660
Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga, 408-741-0802
Church Club 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5844

Song of Questions with Leonard Gubaton in English, Berkeley Piano Club, 5 pm, $20

Oakland Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble Presents Dan's Bay Mix Lane w/ Brossard and more included, Temple Sinai, 8 pm, $25-$35, $45 reserved, $160 for a table of 6

Mendoza Zukerman, violin & The Jomeswol Chamber Players Performing Mozart, Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat Major K. 563, Brahms: Piano Quartet in F Minor, Mountain Hall, 8 pm, $42, $62, $64, $72

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Great Arts Shabach Presents The Brewing Club poem featuring **Carlton Boyd III** celebrating African American heritage, Jazzschool, 8:30 pm, $12

Dan Mountain Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Ghosts of Electricity Plays Bob Dylan w/ The Allen Gang, Arkan Mark Naven, The Robert Brown Sugar & Bovid Sylvester, The New Parish, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Tower Of Power Yoshi's, 7 & 8 pm, $45

A Souvenir's Love Feel w/ **Stephanie Mills & The Whispers** Paramount Gardens, 7 pm, $45.75, $65.75, $87.75

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-285-8836
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Pat's Club Lounge 22721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-125-9985
Pleasanton Garden 2125 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6458
The Hart Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474, TheNewParish.com
Peter's Restaurant 36 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-284-1181
Pleasanton Plaza 650 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8106
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Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159
Oakland Nightclub 1811 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon
Shoreline Amphitheatre 1 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
Spotsakamura 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1340
Spumantic Lounge 1540 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-934-1960
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
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Sunset Flagies 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-6880
Sweetin 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-0120
Sweet's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-6515
Stoney Vineyards Pleasanton 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4201
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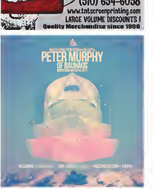

C&C

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Better Folk Lounge: w/ Allen Hang Better ... 1:30 pm. $8

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, R&B & Country

Ed Ivey Goldstone Swig Bar, 8 pm-1:30 am, free
Gospel Blessed w/ Future Perfect & rotating guests. 1300 on Fillmore. 11 am & 1 pm. $30, includes brunch
Lounge: Songwriters Unplugged w/ South Run, Grace Blessed, Brad Brooks Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $1
Terry Summerfield Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free
Music of the Wetlands All Stars w/ Tab Benoit, Anders Osborne, Cyril Neville, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux, Jumpin' Johnny Sansone, Waylon Thibodeaux, & Johnny Vidacovich, plus Mike Zito, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $27

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$71
Best of the Bay Sunday Blessed, series, Sinbad, 6 pm, $40-$300, $65 Winter and show
Paula West & The George Mesterhazy Quartet Rrazz Room, 7 pm, $35-$45 $65 for Valentine's Day special

Rock & Pop

Ash Better w/ Cowboy & Indian, Hemlock Tavern, 1 pm, $8
High on Fire w/ Cold Grave, Slim's, 8 pm, $18
Soul Capers: Music Jew Boy Socialist Dances Better Book Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15
Music Wonders w/ York, Grand Lake, Bar Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Ry-Mund Monley w/ Steve & DJ Fuentes, the Independent, 9 pm, $20-$22
Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Weekend with Special Guest Sheila E. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 1 pm, $20-$30

MONDAY 14

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam McGrath's Pub, 7:30 pm, free
A Special Valentine's Evening w/ Julie Holland w/ Freddie Price, The Five Points, 7:30 pm, $18.50, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Albany High School Jazz Band & Rhythm Better Valentine's Day Concert Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $18.50, $20.50

Rock & Pop

The Decemberists w/ Wooden Wand, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $37.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Dance/Of Power Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $45

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The Ukelele Jam with A.J. Skip's Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

La Jazz Inc Le Colonial, 1 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dones Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free
Honeycomb w/ Chloe Bowes series, Cafe du Nord, 1 pm, $10
The Good Boys w/ Young Prisms, DJ Aaron Axelsen (on Monday) & The Dominion (Tuesday), The Independent, Feb. 14-15, 8 pm, $14, sold out
Smith Western Amoeba Music, 6 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Weekend with Special Guest Sheila E. Yoshi's San Francisco, 7:30 & 1:30 pm, $20-$30

TUESDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night w/ lessons, Ventura's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free
The Creole Bones Cajun & Zydeco Dance w/ Cheryl McBride at 8 pm, Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $12
San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival Presents Plain & Scraggly Folks w/ Bill Evans w/ Kathy Kallick, Sam Rogers, Bill Walters, David Thom, Larry Cotton, Paul Shelasky, Jim Nunally, Bonnie Dancers, & Bob Crowe, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $18.50, $20.50
Stoned Meadly Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Azzl Fort Yoshi's, 8 pm, $16
Iconoclast Tuesdays featuring Oldenbe from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 1 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Kimberli's Music Inc Presents featuring guests from Beyond Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more, The Layover, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge: Late Night Live w/ Equilibria Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $15
Renee Abbes & The Golden Sea w/ Cotton Jones & That Ghost, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $15
Oracle Residency @ Slim's w/ Better Blessed w/ Seventeen Evergreen & Barons Lights (feat. members of Hebrew), Slim's, 8 pm, $5

Classical & Opera

Brazilian Vox w/ DJ Cortese, DJ Pillows, & Rawdrome, Elbo Room, 8 pm, $7

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Jam hosted by Ragi Haney, Skip's Tavern, 8-11:30 pm, free
Marty Lagers Pier 23, 6:30 pm, free
Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Band plays swing, blues & swing Better special Verdi Club, 9 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Bryan Blessed w/ Maggie & Liz & Tiffany Better Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $16, $18
Oblonka w/ Figures, El Rio, 8:30 pm, free
Bortek w/ Hatted & Old Spanish Hemlock Tavern, 1 pm, $8
Boss, Oblonka w/ The Resurrection Men & Pony Pony Poop! Bottom of the Hill, 1 pm, $8
The Dones Dept. w/ Young Prisms, DJ Aaron Axelsen (on Monday) & The Dominion (on Tuesday), The Independent, 8 pm, $14, sold out
Spotted Sis w/ Corrosions, Soul Bass, Off By An Inch, Then Presents, 8 pm, $8

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OCEAN ROYAL
SAT FEB 19 · ADV/DOOR · DOORS 9 / SHOW 10PM
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SIC ALPS · TY SEGALL · THE SANDWITCHES
THURS FEB 10 · $18 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 · SEATED
MARTHA WAINWRIGHT SINGS PIAF
ROVEMAN.
FRI FEB 11 · $21 ADV/DOOR · DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
RYAN BINGHAM & THE DEAD HORSES
THE SILENT COMEDY · LIAM WARNER
SUN FEB 13 · $27 ADV/$27 DOOR · DOORS 7 / SHOW 8
VOICE OF THE WETLANDS ALL STARS
FEATURING TAB BENOIT, ANDERS OSBORNE, CYRIL NEVILLE, BIG CHIEF MONK BOUDREAUX, JUMPIN' JOHNNY SANSONE, WAYLON THIBODEAUX & JOHNNY VIDACOVICH
PLUS MIKE ZITO
TUES FEB 15 · $16 ADV/$18 DOOR · DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8
ROYCE AVENUE
MEGAN & LIZ · TIFFANY ALVORD
FRI FEB 18 · ADV/DOOR · DOORS 7 / SHOW 8
SHAWN RYAN & FRIENDS PRESENT
STREEP TEASE
AN EVENING OF MERYL STREEP MONOLOGUE & SONG
PERFORMED BY AN ALL-MALE CAST
SAT FEB 19 · $21 ADV/DOOR · DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
TODD SNIDER, THE STORYTELLER
ELIZABETH COOK
Gibson

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center
WED 2/9 · 8:30 pm · $10 · CAJUN HULLABALOO · CAJUN COTTONPICKERS · 8:00 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson
THU 2/10 · 8:30 pm · $10 · $8 students · BRAZILIAN/AFRO-CARIBBEAN/REGGAE · Z'AMICO · RENÉE ASTERIA
FRI 2/11 · 9:30 pm · $13 · $10 advance · BRAZILIAN · TAMBORES · JULIO · REMELEXO · + FALAVRA

SAT 2/12 · 9:30 pm · $15 · $12 advance · WORLD FUSION

SHIMSHAI & SERAPHIM SOUND SYSTEM · Reggae jazz kirtan folk blend dedicated to higher consciousness · + YAQUELIN & JAMIE · Afro-Cuban jazz-reggae
SUN 2/13 · 1:30 pm · $8 · FOLKDANCE · ISRAELI FOLKDANCE with Allen King
TUE 2/15 · 8:30 pm · $13 · CAJUN CREOLE · CREOLE BELLES · AUX CAJUNALS · 8:00 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson · Part of S.F. Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival
WED 2/16 · 9:30 pm · $15 · GYPSY/BALKAN/KLEZMER/HOT JAZZ · FISHTANK ENSEMBLE · + SOUR MASH HUB BAND

THU 2/17 · 9:00 pm · $10 · GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT · THE THUGZ (Tribal Hippie Underground Zone)
FRI 2/18 · 9:00 pm · $13 / $10 ... · SWING · SWINGTNING · 8:00 pm Swing dance lesson
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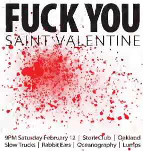

FUCK YOU
SAINT VALENTINE

9PM Saturday February 12 | Stork Club | Oakland
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SUNDAY, FEB. 13
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What if every musician you knew
put their music first for 28 days?

What if you recorded the best song of your life?

What if the world was never the same?

This is not a contest. This is a challenge.
Join us
www.rpmchallenge.com

EAST BAY EXPRESS

// THIS IS NOT A CONTEST //
THIS IS A WORLD-WIDE CHALLENGE // JOIN US!!

What's stopping us? Nothing. February is Record Production Month. You have no reason to say no, and nothing to lose.

Dust off your gear.
Set aside all distractions.
Get the band back together.
And get to work creating new music!

The RPM Challenge is simple:

Record an album in 28 days, just because you can. That's 10 songs or 35 minutes of original material recorded during the month of February.

Last year, over 80 Bay Area bands participated, and the movement is quickly growing!

To participate or learn more, visit our website:
www.RPMChallenge.com

On March 26, the *Express* will host a celebratory listening party where one track from every album completed is played.
See you there!

Sponsored by: Leo's Pro Audio 5447 Telegraph Ave, Oakland LeosAudio.com

WEDNESDAY 16

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Lost Library, Ray Bonneville, Sean McArdle, Baron Wolf Henna Bar, 7 pm, donations accepted

San Francisco Bluegrass & Oldtime Festival: Dr. K's Home Brew Roots Band, Big Bowl, The Squad, Hold Fast & Knittin', The Wranglers Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm

Whiskey Brothers, old-time and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bill Frisell & Vinicius Cantuaria Yoshi's, Feb. 16-17, 8 & 10 pm, $16-$24

Blue Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Mike Weissberg solo jazz guitar, Italian Colors, 6:15-8:15 pm, free

Will Michels piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

[illegible] plays the New Parish on 2/11

Rock & Pop

Pirate Cat Radio Presents: Big Thief This week: Younger Brynn, Sarah Bakke, Sodium Fox, & Sacred Bog, The Uptown, 8 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Fishbowl Ensemble w/ The Sina Mash Hug Band, Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Tony Bluegrass Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Blanket-revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Red Marcelo and the Bonito Bonito Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Stanhat w/ the Mark Bonito Sextet, Amnesia, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dum Dum Girls w/ MINKS & Dirty Beaches, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12

Hard Mile SF #9 w/ Real Estate Beaches, [illegible], Early Archaeology, & Billy Surly Fundamentals, Beaches, Slate, 7:30 pm, $7

Noofangles Wasteland Rock cover band featuring members of ALD & Tea Leaf Green, plus Dead Winter Carpenters & a mini musicale set by Trevor Garrod & Dave Singer, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

Seabear Rd. w/ Sam Agnew & Red Blue Yellow, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Miguel The Independent, 8 pm, $20

Sesame & The Plump Jones Les Orchestra w/ The Seductions, TJ Kirk, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Clarke and Wobbly World Latin, flamenco, Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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FRI. FEB. 11th	9:30PM - 11:30PM **SARGENT TUCKER** R&B, Soul & Funk
SAT. FEB. 12th	8:30PM **DJANGO OBSCURA** Gypsy Jam Rock
SUN. FEB. 13th	5PM - 8PM **MICHAEL VAN & THE MOVERS** Acoustic Americana & Bluegrass
MON. FEB. 14th	8PM **HOT CLUB OF MARIN** Gypsy Jazz
TUES. FEB. 15th	5PM - 8:30PM **DAN DAMON** Solo Piano 9PM - 11:30PM **ON THE AIR** Jazz & Swing

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SELECTOR: DJ DELON THUR 2/10

8:00 Hip hopper and DJ ace Alan Grissette aka DJ Delon lays it down with his patented blend of nu-jazz, downtempo and electro soul goodness.
www.soundcloud.com/djdelon

SOCKET FRI 2/11

9:00 The electric brew of SOCKET's Hammond organ-powered instrumental groove music is firmly grounded in funk and jazz, and charged with a nasty smudge of East Bay grease. Based in Oakland, CA, the band's key influences include Herbie Hancock's Headhunters, James Brown, Medeski Martin and Wood, Fela Kuti, and Charlie Hunter. **www.socketband.com**

DANA SALZMAN QUARTET SAT 2/12

9:00 Oakland's own Dana Salzman has been playing music since the age of four. Classically and then jazz trained with a degree from the New School of Jazz and Contemporary music, Dana's influences range from Etta James, Roy Ayers, and West Coast rap
www.myspace.com/danasalzman

JAZZ FOR PEACE
CONCERT

Benefitting Bret Harte Middle School
Peer anti-bullying and after-school programs

Saturday, February 12th

Reception: 6pm, Concert: 7pm
Performances by Bret Harte students and other guest artists

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SAN FRANCISCO

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with special guest SHEILA E.

Tues-Thurs, Feb 15-17
ANGIE STONE
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Fri Feb 18
K-CI & JOJO

Sat Feb 19
RONNIE LAWS QUARTET

Sun Feb 20
TAO WORKU

Mon Feb 21
BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION

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Wed Feb 9
KENNY GARRETT QUARTET

Thurs-Fri, Feb 10-11
THE GEORGE DUKE QUARTET

Tues Feb 15
ANAT FORT

Wed-Thurs, Feb 16-17
BILL FRISELL & VINICIUS CANTUARIA
Celebrating New Album Lagrimas Mexicanas

Fri-Sun Feb 18-20
ERIC BENET

Mon Feb 21
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Tues Feb 22
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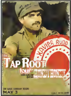

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MARCH 12

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Blood Like Lemonade
MARCH 5

CLAY AIKEN
MARCH 12

DEVO
MARCH 18

JAY & SILENT BOB GET OLD
KEVIN SMITH
& JASON MEWES
MARCH 19

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 10

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ Joe G. spin hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $3, students free w/ ID

Bolero Glow w/ DJs Kool Kenni B, Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm, free

Delicious Thursdays Bolero. 10 pm, free

DJ Juicy Rose spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B & more. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free

DJ Pawlk spinning lounge. Last Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am, free

Flight Time w/ DJ Ron Carver. The Layover. 11 pm, free

Go Jah w/ DJs Pine Chee & Sonic Parks. The Whiskey Lounge. 10 pm, free

Soulkid DJ Zeph & host MC Harris spin classic hip-hop, reggae, & soul. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm, free

Selector w/ DJ Orion Jupiter. 9 pm, free

Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs Vinny Black & Frankie Fresh spinning Ron Rambocks, hip-hop, & old-school, students free. 9 pm, free

Yoruba Dance Sessions w/ DJs Carlos Mena & Cecil. Bolero and Kat. 9 pm, free

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

FRIDAY 11

EAST BAY

Oro Jah w/ DJs Eddy Bauer and the Fabrizio spinning, last man free live jams. The Missouri Lounge. 10 pm, free

Easy 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Easy 21. 9 pm, $6-$15

DJ MOM's Boot Shot Beat Review The Layover. 10 pm, free

Downlounge Bar Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove. 10:30-11:30 pm, free

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe. 10 pm, $5

Happy Hours w/ DJ Golden spinning punk, rock, indie, & more. The Missouri Lounge. 6-10 pm, free

salsa reggaeton DJ Jorge Exitoso spins salsa, merengue, Spanish pop, & house. Bench and Bar. 9 pm-2 am, $6-$15

Mighty Irie free w/ Irie Dole, & Smoke-Bee spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, $10

Old-School hip-hop/funk. Radio. 9 pm, free

Revolve DJ Joe Quinn spins funk, Latin. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free

Retro-Active Randall hosts '80s pop night. Ringleman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

Touchy DJ Pablo Pryme, salsa, students soul, Motown, '80s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room. 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Exotico Kona DJs spin house music w/ Latin & Brazilian beats. Gold Kitty. 10 pm, $5, free before 10:30 pm

Manifesto Friday DJs Smitty Fox, Dolce B MCD & Chicken Scratch spin funk and hip-hop. The Cellar. 10 pm, free before 10 p.m., $10 after

Hot Pants w/ DJs Chicken Sugar, Mellovo, Vino Chef & special guests spinning '80s, electro, hip-hop, & R&B. Cat Club. 9 pm, $5

Dolce Dolce w/ DJ Toro. Make-Out Room. 10 pm, $5

Rock Bout Manifesto Mezzanine. 9 pm, $10-$20

Paris Dolce International DJs Sagal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab. 9 pm, $5

Strictly Videos featuring VDJs spinning music videos from every genre. 111 Minna Street Gallery. $5-$10

Room the Night w/ DJs E. Casus, Vinnie Esparza, & Right Man. Elbo Room. 10 pm, $5

VSL Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop. Velvet. 6 pm, $10

SATURDAY 12

EAST BAY

Angel Magik One-Funk, Jah Kiss, Irie Flynn & guests spin hip-hop, reggae, & dancehall. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm, $15

Club Wreckshop w/ DJs Ruff, Chris, Sign T, & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar. 9 pm, $8-$12

Downlounge Bar Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove. 10:30-11:30 pm, free

The Foot Doctor Love Dolce Valentine's Gift Show Shattuck Down Low. 8 pm, $5

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ Will. White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $5

La Rosa Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus live grupo vaquero. Club 21. 9 pm, $6-$15

Man Made & Crew w/ DJs Man Made free Farmer's Market students at 7:00 a.m. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free

Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the '80s to Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am, free

Soulfully Yours w/ Lyra & DJ Sonparnese. The Uptown. 9 pm, $10

Hands Hands DJs spin old-school hip-hop, funky, bad bangers, & more. Bolero. 10 pm-2 am, free

Wound-Up w/ DJ Field Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Missouri Lounge. 6-11 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Rockblock Guitar Rodeo party w/ DJ Hem spins '80s, '90s, hip-hop, dance-pop & soul. Rickshaw Stop. 10 pm, $7

DJ Supertime! w/ DJs & Right Man spinning cumbia, reggaeton, salsa, and world dance-pop. Apartment 3. 10 pm, $5

Paris Dolce International DJs Sagal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab. 9 pm, $5

Swing Beat w/ DJs Danny, Pete & guests. The Endup. 10 pm, $10, ladies free before 11 p.m.

Tormenta Tropical w/ Uproot Andy, Jubilee, Dolce Aguilar. Elbo Room. 10 pm, $6 before 11 p.m., $10 thereafter

SUNDAY 13

EAST BAY

Room by Beatiques Easy Lounge. 8 pm, free

Dis Dance & Photo spin R&B, old-school. Kitty's. 7 pm, free

Lay & Home Sundays featuring DJ Rm. Dunel. The Layover. 2 pm, free

Reel Sanctuary Dance Community Dance Stream. SoulSanctuaryDance.com. Ashkenaz. 11 am-2 pm, $5-$15, free for newcomers 12 & under

Uncle Fee's Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots reggae. The Hoity Toity Club. 7 pm, free

MONDAY 14

EAST BAY

Irie Mondays Irie Ruddy & Saag spin reggae & dancehall. Kitty's. 9 pm, free

Song is for Sucka w/ Oyd Alfarabi, The Purple Room Boys, V.E.R.A Ellipse, The Jinx, Shavone Pajeti, DJ Ilsey Ma, Jamie Marshall & Tinde The Bossman, friends. Easy. 7 pm, donations accepted

Monday Soul spinning DJs B-Sharp, Hector. The New Parish. 10 pm, $5

Sound Aftermath DJs spinning rock and a free mechanic. The Layover. 4-10 pm, free

Sunday Room Cool w/ DJ N-Joe spinning rock 'n' roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Missouri Lounge. 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 15

EAST BAY

DJ Just Thang spinning salsa & Latin funk. Easy Lounge. 8 pm, free

DJ Wooly spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am, free

Industry Line w/ DJ Mind friends & guests. Spin Lion Lounge & Gourmet Foods. 9 pm, $10

Good Fruit Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm

Stay Punk! w/ DJ Shattuck spinning indie, punk, hardcore, & metal. The Missouri Lounge. 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 16

EAST BAY

Afternoon Delight w/ DJ Mary spinning soul, funk, & more. Kitty's. 9 pm, free

The Jump Off Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 pm, $6-$15

Parranda Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta. Bench and Bar. 7 pm, $6-$15

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry/ open mic and live DJ. Easy. 11 pm, free

Soulful Wednesdays DJ Sarah & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaetón, & more, plus salsa dance lessons. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm, free ●

PICK

The Look of Love

There's probably no better way to celebrate the sappiest day of the year than with **Hot Pocket**, an abridged version of the San Francisco-based ten-piece band **Bayonics**. The small combo will handle a night of glitchy groove-driven, appropriately romantic dance music, out and spliced by two of the Bay Area's top DJs. **Om Records' DJ Whooligan** is a well-established wax slinger with special love in broken beat, house and classic hip-hop. His intricate remix of the **Slum Village** song "Look of Love" — from which the event's title derives — retains the soulfulness of the original tune albeit with an extra layer of electronic funk. **DJ 40Love** will round out the night. He specializes in odd juxtapositions, like setting a rap over an Indian tabla beat. At the **Elbo Room** (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Monday, Feb. 14, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $8. Elbo.com — *Rachel Swan*

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Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446057
The following individual is doing business as **The Soft White Babies** Street Address: [illegible] Ave Oakland, CA [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Octavio Gurrola, [illegible] Ave, Oakland, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/10/2011
The Soft White Babies
1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 447201
The following individual is doing business as **Game Media** Street Address: 2870 Montaire St. Oakland CA [illegible] Mailing Address: P.O. Box 496 [illegible], CA [illegible] is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Business County on 1/25/2011
Game Media
2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 447188
The following individual is doing business as **I 791 Restorat, LLC** Street Address: [illegible] Collins Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: I 791 Restorat, LLC [illegible] San Leandro CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Business County on 1/25/2011
I 791 Restorat, LLC
2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 447130
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Machine Solutions, LLC** Street Address: 4697 Chabot Dr. Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Machine Solutions, LLC, 4695 Chabot Dr. Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2005. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/24/2011
[illegible] Machine Solutions, LLC
2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446889
The following individual is doing business as **Vladimir Guides** Street Address: [illegible] 3rd St. Apt # 408, Oakland, CA 94607 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owners: Jeffrey Landis Keyes, [illegible] Apt # 410, Oakland, CA 94607 [illegible]. This business is conducted by a General partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/10/2011
Vladimir Guides
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/2011

I, Laura Mae Long, am Executrix to the LAURA MAE LONG [illegible]
[illegible] Laura Mae Long, [illegible]
Nation California.
General Post Office,
Santa Clara Street [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Long Holdings,
United States Minor, Outlying Islands
[illegible]
2/2, 2/16, 2/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446826
The following individual is doing business as **Pygmalion Media** Street Address: 2528 College Ave. # 372 Berkeley CA 94704 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Neil Lynch, 2528 College Ave. #372, Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/15/2010. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2011
Pygmalion Media
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446915
The following individual is doing business as **Chris Prime Enterprises DBA Kelly's Corner** Street Address: 2029 MacArthur Blvd Oakland, CA 94602. Mailing Address: 1275 Excelsior Ave., Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner: Christopher A. Hunter, 1275 Excelsior Ave., Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/11/2011
Chris Prime Enterprises DBA Kelly's Corner
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER RG11558880
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda
1225 Fallon St
Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RASHIDA KIM ABDULKARIM filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name: RASHIDA KIM ABDULKARIM to Proposed Name: ANWAR RASHID KHALIL ABDUL KARIM. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
April 22, 2011 at 11 A.M. in Dept. # 31 at 201 13th St. [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express.
Alameda County, California
Dated: January 31, 2011
Signed: Carl W. Morris
Judge of the Superior Court
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446744
The following individual is doing business as **Joseph Jones** Street Address: 4712 Davenport Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619. Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] 4712 Davenport [illegible] Oakland, CA 94619; Mike Jones, 966 55th Street #B, Oakland, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a general partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2011. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2011.
Joseph Jones
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446797
The following individual is doing business as **University of Ireland** Street Address: 2645 Stuart St., Berkeley, CA 94705 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Sean Murnan, 2645 Stuart St., Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/14/2011
University of Ireland
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446931
The following individual is doing business as **Hooked on Pucks** Street Address: 114A Santa Clara Ave., Oakland, CA 94610 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] Harris, 4148 Santa Clara Ave. Oakland, CA 94610; James Dunavin, 4615 Giant Rd. Suite 1 Carson City, NV 89706. This business is conducted by co-partners. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Business of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]
Hooked on Pucks
2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 447050
The following individual is doing business as **LB Dental Inc Livermore** Street Address: [illegible] Southfront Rd., Livermore, CA 94551. Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Vintage Inc., [illegible] Southfront Rd., Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/21/2011
LB Dental Inc Livermore
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446795
The following individual is doing business as **Windermere Music LLC** Street Address: 2045 [illegible] St., Berkeley, CA 94705 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Windermere Music LLC, 2045 Stuart St., Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/10/2005. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/14/2011.
Windermere Music LLC
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 447243
The following individual is doing business as **Explorrr** Street Address: [illegible] Blvd. Apt [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94704 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2553 Durant Ave., 115, Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/25/2011.
Explorrr
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446800
The following individual is doing business as **The Goodwin Foundation** Street Address: 7517 Oakport Street # 1120, Oakland, CA 94621 Mailing Address: [illegible] Morgan Hill, CA 95037, is hereby registered by the following owner: The Goodwin Foundation, Inc., 7517 Oakport Street # 1120, Oakland, CA 94621. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2011. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/[illegible]/2011
The Goodwin Foundation
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 446897
The following individual is doing business as **Creations of a Cosmo Gambel** Street Address: 4251 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608, Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 104 22nd St. #8, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/14/2011. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 1/14/2011
Creations of a Cosmo Gambel
2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/2011

House & Art & New Deep Island
[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES SUMMONS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Beth Boehm, an individual. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Angela Brooks, Gerald Nolan, Patrick Harris, [illegible] on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated. CASE NUMBER: RG08-431461 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. The name and address of the court is: Alameda County SUPERIOR COURT 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: [illegible] & [illegible] Harrison Street, Ste 750 Oakland, CA 94612, 510-832-9999 Date: February 7th 2011 [illegible] Singh, Deputy Clerk. 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2/2011

T.S. No. 10-1764-11 Loan No. 0700623243 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE A copy of California Civil Code Section 2923.54 (SB 7) declaration is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/2/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Jason F. Lundie, an unmarried man Duly Appointed Trustee: The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation Recorded 2/14/2007 as Instrument No. 2007070339 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: 2/16/2011 at 12:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $399,800.35 estimated Street Address or other common designation of real property: 6 Admiral Drive #A126 Emeryville, CA 94608 A.P.N.: 049-1528-174 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: 1/20/2011 The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation 2955 Main Street, 2nd Floor Irvine, California 92614 (949) 720-9200 Foreclosure Dept. Fax (949) 608-0130 Sale Information Only: (714) 573-1965 Renae C. Murray, Foreclosure Manager DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54, the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: 1. It has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and 2. The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. P794130 1/26, 2/2, 02/09/2011

Trustee Sale No. [illegible] Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/13/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 2/16/2011 at 12:00 PM CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 09/22/2006, Book, Page, Instrument 2006359657 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: Chinyelu Lona Ikeya, a single man as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA Legal Description: PARCEL A: LOTS 1 AND 2, TRACT 4673, FILED JUNE 15, 1981 IN MAP BOOK 127 AT PAGES 70 AND 71, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE WESTERLY [illegible] FEET THEREOF, MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES, AS CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BY DEED RECORDED FEBRUARY 17, 1982, SERIES NO. 82-23452, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL B: EASEMENTS APPURTENANT TO PARCEL A HEREINABOVE, AS SET FORTH AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN DIVISION I OF THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED TO TOWER HOUSE ASSOCIATES, A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, DATED OCTOBER 13, 1981 AND RECORDED OCTOBER 14, 1981, AS SERIES NO. 81-174374, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. EXCEPTING THEREFROM HOWEVER THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT SET FORTH AT DIVISION I.A. OF SAID GRANT DEED RECORDED AS SERIES NO. 81-174374, OFFICIAL RECORDS, SUCH EASEMENT HAVING BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY INSTRUMENT RECORDED DECEMBER 6, 1983, AS SERIES NO. 83-[illegible], OFFICIAL RECORDS. PARCEL C: AN ACCESS EASEMENT APPURTENANT TO PARCEL A HEREINABOVE, AS RESERVED IN THE DEED TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RECORDED FEBRUARY 17, 1982, SERIES NO. 82-23452, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THE EASTERLY [illegible] FEET OF THE WESTERLY [illegible] FEET, RIGHT ANGLE MEASUREMENTS, OF LOTS 1 AND 2, TRACT 4673, FILED JUNE 15, 1981, MAP BOOK 127, PAGES 70 AND 71, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. SAID EASEMENT ABUTTING UPON STATE HIGHWAY NO. [illegible] RIGHT OF WAY AND LIMITED VERTICALLY TO 12.5 FEET ABOVE THE PAVEMENT SURFACE CONSTRUCTED OR TO BE CONSTRUCTED. PARCEL D: EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS APPURTENANT TO PARCEL A HEREINABOVE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT SUBDIVISION OR SUBDIVISIONS THEREOF, FOR THE INGRESS AND EGRESS OF VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, RECONSTRUCT, REPAIR AND REPLACE ALL IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY AND RELATED TO SUCH RIGHTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS, AND FOR LANDSCAPING PURPOSES, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, RECONSTRUCT, REPAIR AND REPLACE SUCH LANDSCAPING AND ALL NECESSARY AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS THERETO, OVER, UNDER, ALONG, ACROSS AND THROUGH THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED STRIP OF LAND: A STRIP OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF THE LAND DESCRIBED IN DEED TO TOWER HOUSE ASSOCIATES, A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, RECORDED APRIL 5, 1982, SERIES NO. 82-48731, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING A PORTION OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, MOUNT DIABLO BASE AND MERIDIAN, AS SHOWN ON MAP NO. 4 OF SALT MARSH AND TIDE LANDS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF LOT 1 AS SHOWN UPON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, TRACT NO. 4673, RECORDED ON JUNE 15, 1981 IN BOOK 127 OF MAPS AT PAGES 70 AND 71, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, SOUTH 14° 00' [illegible] EAST 32.57 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING BEING THE NORTHWESTERN CORNER OF THE PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED AS PARCEL ONE WITHIN THE GRANT DEED TO TOWER HOUSE ASSOCIATES, A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, RECORDED ON APRIL 5, 1982 AS SERIES NO. 82-48731, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE FROM SAID TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, LEAVING SAID NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF LOT 1, ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID LAST MENTIONED PARCEL ONE, NORTH 75° 58' 40" EAST 128.34 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE STREET COMMONLY KNOWN AS CHRISTIE STREET AS DESCRIBED WITHIN THE GRANT OF EASEMENT TO THE TOWN OF EMERYVILLE RECORDED NOVEMBER 1, 1954 IN REEL 1354 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS, IMAGE [illegible], ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE LEAVING SAID NORTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE, ALONG SAID LAST MENTIONED SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, SOUTH [illegible] EAST [illegible] FEET TO A POINT; THENCE LEAVING SAID SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, SOUTH 75° 58' [illegible] WEST 121.57 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THE LANDS OF TOWER HOUSE ASSOCIATES (82-48731), BEING THE AFOREMENTIONED NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE, ALONG SAID LAST MENTIONED NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE, NORTH 14° 00' [illegible] WEST [illegible] FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. PARCEL E: A PERMANENT, NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT APPURTENANT TO PARCEL A HEREINABOVE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT SUBDIVISION THEREOF, FOR THE INGRESS AND EGRESS OF PEDESTRIANS AND VEHICLES OVER, ALONG AND ACROSS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED STRIP OF LAND, AS CREATED IN THAT CERTAIN INSTRUMENT ENTITLED GRANT OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENTS, DATED NOVEMBER [illegible], 1983 AND RECORDED DECEMBER 6, 1983, AS SERIES NO. 83-[illegible], OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY: A STRIP OF LAND BEING THE WESTERLY [illegible] FEET OF PARCEL 2, PARCEL MAP [illegible], FILED JULY [illegible], 1978, IN PARCEL MAP BOOK [illegible] AT PAGE [illegible], ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: [illegible] Christie Avenue [illegible] Emeryville, CA 94608 APN Number: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5, the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 1/21/2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee [illegible] Sales Information: Zelma Thorpes, Assistant Secretary California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 P793711 1/26, 2/2, 02/09/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-0488-094 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/03/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by GARY CITCHEL, AN UNMARRIED MAN, dated 04/03/2007 and recorded 04/06/07, as Instrument No. 2007134502, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 03/03/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4053 HARLAN STREET #307, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $[illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 09/17/2009 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# FNMA[illegible] 01/26/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/09/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] FHA/VA/PMI No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 03/16/2006 as Instrument No. 2006098866 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: DIDGRACIAS HADHAD, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 02/15/2011 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6301 CHRISTIE AVE APT 3714, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 049-1531-330 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $721,749.95. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.lpsasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 01/21/2011 NDEx West, L.L.C. 15000 Surveyor Boulevard, Suite 500 Addison, Texas 75001-9013 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier: (972) 661-7800 ASAP# 3877197 01/26/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/09/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 734600CA Loan No. 3017979401 Title Order No. 3206-243091 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07-18-2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 02-23-2011 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 08-03-2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007 288537 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: CONSTANZE FREI, A MARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED ONE/SIXTY SECOND (1/62) INTEREST AS TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO LOT 1, PARCEL MAP 7747, FILED AUGUST 9, 2004, IN MAP BOOK 276, PAGES 1 AND 2, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL OF THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN (THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN) ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A TO THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS OF GREENCITY LOFTS, A COMMON INTEREST DEVELOPMENT (THE DECLARATION) RECORDED JULY 27, 2005, SERIES NO. 2005 319659 OFFICIAL RECORDS AND RE-RECORDED SEPTEMBER 9, 2005, SERIES NO. 2005 388489. B) ALL OF THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE. C) EASEMENTS FOR ENCROACHMENT, SUPPORT, OCCUPANCY AND USE AND FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM THE COMMON AREA. PARCEL TWO: UNIT 324, AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AS BALCONY, PATIO, AND/OR STEPS, LANDING, PORCH WHICH BEARS THE SAME NUMBER AS THE UNIT NUMBER OF THE OWNERS UNIT AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN. PARCEL FOUR: THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREA DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AS PARKING SPACE NUMBER 40. PARCEL FIVE: THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS AND USE AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL THE AREAS DESIGNATED AS COMMON AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE, AND AS SET FORTH IN THE DECLARATION REFERRED TO ABOVE. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $562,504.96 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41ST ST #324 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-0022-069 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 01-26-2011 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee JAMES TOLLIVER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY For Sales Information: CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com ASAP# 3891348 02/02/2011, 02/09/2011, 02/16/2011

Trustee Sale No. [illegible] Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. M20629 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12-01-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 03-02-2011 at 12:00 PM, PLM LENDER SERVICES, INC. as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 12-08-2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006449973 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: CURTIS L. WILLIAMS, SR. AND JACQUELINE WILLIAMS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor HOWARD FELDSTEIN, A SINGLE MAN AS TO AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] BENEFICIAL INTEREST; TY EBRIGHT, TRUSTEE OF THE TY EBRIGHT DEFINED BENEFIT TRUST AS TO AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] BENEFICIAL INTEREST AND ALEXIS WHITE-PRYER AND JAMES PRYER, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY, AS TO AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] BENEFICIAL INTEREST, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction the trustee's interest in the property described below, to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. The sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: AT THE FALLON ST EMERGENCY EXIT TO THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property purported as: 5421 MARKET STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 016-1393-022 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary declares that this property is not subject to California Civil Code § 2923.5. DATE: 02-02-2011 FOR TRUSTEE'S SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714) 573-1965, OR VISIT WEBSITE: www.priorityposting.com PLM LENDER SERVICES, INC., AS TRUSTEE PLM LENDER SERVICES, INC., AGENT FOR OR AS SERVICING AGENT 46 N. Second Street Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 370-4030 DEBBIE GRAHAM, VICE PRESIDENT PLM LENDER SERVICES, INC. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P799711 2/9, 2/16, 02/23/2011

Trustee Sale No. 446209CA Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 03-02-2011 at 12:00 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded [illegible], Book , Page , Instrument [illegible] of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: Richard Gene Scott and, Susan Matthews Scott, husband and wife, as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA Legal Description: Parcel One: An undivided one sixty second (1/62) interest as tenant in common in and to lot 1, parcel map 7747, filed August 9, 2004, in map book 276, pages 1 and 2, Alameda County Records. Excepting therefrom the following: A) All of the condominium units as shown on the condominium plan ("The Condominium Plan") attached as Exhibit "A" to the declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions of Greencity Lofts, a common interest development ("The Declaration") recorded July 27, 2005, series no. 2005 319659 official records, and re-recorded September 9, 2005 series no. 2005 388489. B) All of the exclusive use common areas as shown on the condominium plan referred to above. C) Easements for encroachment, support, occupancy and use and for ingress and egress from the common area. Parcel Two: Unit 424, as shown on the condominium plan referred to in parcel one above. Parcel Three: The exclusive use common areas designated on the plan as balcony, patio, and/or steps, landing, porch which bears the same number as the unit number of the owners unit as shown on the plan. Parcel Four: The exclusive use common area designated on the plan as parking space number 13. Parcel Five: The right of ingress and egress and use and enjoyment of all the areas designated as common areas as shown on the condominium plan referred to above, and as set forth in the declaration referred to above. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41st St Unit 424, Emeryville CA 94608 APN Number: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 02-04-2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee Sierra Herradura, Assistant Secretary California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 P799637 2/9, 2/16, 02/23/2011

T.S. No. 10-39060 APN: 049-1528-373-00 Loan No. [illegible]
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/17/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: RONALD D NORFLEET, A SINGLE MAN Duly Appointed Trustee: LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE Deed of Trust recorded 6/24/2004 as Instrument No. [illegible] in book ---, page --- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: 3/2/2011 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the front Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $228,707.54 Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 6 ADMIRAL DRIVE # A464 EMERYVILLE, California 94608 Described as follows: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST A.P.N #.: 049-1528-373-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Pursuant to California Civil Code §2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: The provisions of California Civil Code §2923.52 do not apply because: The loan was made, purchased or serviced by a California state or local public housing agency or authority, including state or local housing finance agencies established under Division 31 (commencing with Section 50000) of the Health and Safety Code and Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 988) of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code. The loan is collateral for securities purchased by a California state or local public housing agency or authority, including state or local housing finance agencies established under Division 31 (commencing with Section 50000) of the Health and Safety Code and Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 988) of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code. Dated: 1/26/2011 Law Offices of Les Zieve, as Trustee 18377 Beach Blvd., Suite 210 Huntington Beach, California 92648 Automated Sale Information Line: (714) 848-9272 or www.elitepostandpub.com For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920

Christine O'Brien, Trustee Sale Officer

THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EPP 6117 2/2, 2/9, 2/16/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

LOVE BITES

Navigating the slings and arrows of ill-fated relationships

By Dan Savage

I've written before but I didn't hear back from you — probably because my e-mail didn't contain flogging or sodomy or whatever. But I won't be IGNORED, Dan.

I'm a 32-year-old female. Second marriage, two kids: one kid with my ex and one with the man I cheated on my ex with (my current husband). My problem: A year ago I found my "first love" on a social network. I'd been looking for him off and on for more than sixteen years. This person was a jerk who left me for one of my friends back in high school. But he was and still is the love of my life. Always has been. Always will be. He is not married, has never been married, and has no children. We began an affair about seven months after finding each other. My marriage, my second marriage, had been rocky before this. My second husband of three years stopped having sex with me after I became pregnant, and this continued after our child was born. We tried counseling. It didn't help. In no way am I using this as an excuse. I know what I've done is wrong. But I also have a pretty bad track record and have cheated on every man I've ever been with, except for my first love.

This man, my first love, is the worst person in the world for me. Yet I'm in love with him. I have ALWAYS been in love with him. He wants me to leave my white-collar husband for him, a very blue-collar guy. I live in a nice home in the suburbs; my first love lives in a small apartment in the city. Five months after we began having sex with each other, my current husband found out. Instead of leaving me, he has turned into a different man, extremely loving and attentive. He says this experience has made him realize how much he loves me and that he doesn't want to lose me.

My other problem: I didn't begin this affair to get my second husband's attention. I began it because I'm in love with my first love and always have been. My husband knows of my deep feelings for my "first." I mention divorce often, but it falls on deaf ears. I want to do what is best for my kids — and that would be staying right where I am. But I feel my only chance for "true" love, if there is such a thing, is passing me by. I've never felt for anyone as I do for this man. Every man who has come into my life AFTER him knew about him and knew that if he ever came back for me, I was gone. This includes my current husband. Dan, pull out all the stops on this one, as you famously do, and please tell me what to do.

Serial Cheater In Love

I've read what you've written before, SCIL, but I didn't respond because I didn't have much to say to you and I still don't. I had the same reaction reading your e-mail today that I had reading all the other e-mails you've sent. My reaction is a little selfish and I'm a little embarrassed to share it with you. But you keep pressing me, SCIL, and so here it is.

THIS BITCH CAN GET LEGALLY MARRIED AND I CAN'T?!?!

Sorry, sorry, sorry. That was catty of me — nowhere near the level of respectful professionalism that people expect of me — and so now I'm going to have to make amends by serving up some of that advice that you're after. But I'm going to offer you my advice on one condition: You don't write to me ever again.

Okay?

You say you've cheated on every man you've ever been with, with the exception of your "first love," SCIL. You seem to be engaged in a little circular reasoning/magical thinking here — you've concluded that he must be the love of your life because you didn't cheat on him, and you didn't cheat on him because he's the love of your life. No. You didn't cheat on him, SCIL, because you didn't get around to it. You two broke up when you were fifteen years old. If you'd been with him a little longer, you would've cheated on him like you've cheated on everybody else.

If you leave your current husband and break up your first child's second home and your second child's first home, it won't be long before you get around to cheating on the love of your life too. Because you're a cheater, SCIL, a habitual, serial cheater. You're precisely the kind of person who shouldn't make monogamous commitments.

Or get married. Or have children.

That said, if your current husband doesn't mind being cheated on, if he can put up with your affairs and wants to put your children first, then I think you should stay with him for the sake of your kids. They deserve whatever stability and continuity you can provide for them between infidelities.

So just stay put, okay?

My girlfriend of two years, my first real relationship, broke up with me a month ago. Although I felt like shit for most of that month, we somehow managed to struggle through to a close friendship. I wouldn't say I'm entirely over her, but I understand why it happened and that we won't be getting back together. All in all, I've felt like we've both been pretty mature and things are going well.

The complication: We still find each other attractive and we work very well together sexually. So she proposed an FWB arrangement and I said yes. We laid down ground rules — we are not together, we are just friends who fuck, so no "I love you," no commitments, no expectations — and we started having hot sex. Is this foolishness? We both know that I'd prefer something more. So the question remains: Should we keep fucking?

Can't Recall Acronym Procedure

How are you going to feel when your ex-girlfriend/current fuck buddy finds a new boyfriend and ends your FWB arrangement? If you can honestly answer, "I'll be happy for her," then keep fucking — but don't forget to ask for your balls back when she dumps you that second time.

If you can't say that and you decide to keep fucking the ex anyway, CRAP, you wouldn't be the first lovesick dumpee who agreed to enter into an FWB arrangement with an ex. If the short-term rewards (all that hot sex) and the potential long-term payoff (getting back together) make the risk seem worthwhile, then keep fucking. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage.
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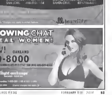
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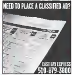

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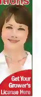

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